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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support putting Article 12 to a referendum next year?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Parasite

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin seeks to boost ties with Beijing while likening the U.S. to a parasite.

WORLD...Page 16

Most Nominated

Adele has the year's most popular album and is the most nominated artist for this year's American Music Awards.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Man armed with screwdriver robs tourist at Suicide Cliff. PAGE 3

Govt to conduct census—not survey sample—of businesses. PAGE 5

CUC seeks up to 56 percent hike for water, wastewater

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. wants to raise its water and wastewater rates and to establish new fees and additional rates for certain charges.

The petition, filed Tuesday with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, cites four elements beyond CUC's control that warrant the rate hike: power cost increases, stipulated order requirements, declining customer base, and operating cost increases.

CUC says that increases in oil prices impact not only CUC's electric rates but water and wastewater rates as well because these divisions use large amounts of energy.

While the per barrel cost of oil has declined from levels reached earlier in 2011, CUC said that the cost remains not only highly volatile but also a key component of the overall cost of water and wastewater service.

The stipulated order entered into by CUC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also requires the utilities to incur millions of dollars in additional operation and

See CUC on Page 4

HEALTHCARE BOARD NOMINEES HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board nominees Pedro Q. Dela Cruz, Roy T. Rios, Anthony Aguon, and Joaquin S. Torres look on as former governor Juan N. Babauta, right, one of the governor's special advisers, testifies at a Senate committee public hearing on the four nominees. Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chair of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, said the panel is leaning towards recommending to the full Senate to confirm the nominees.

See story on Page 4

Oil prices down but NMI motorists still paying high gas prices

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Abraham Falig, of Tanapag, said his family spends some $180 every two weeks to buy gas for their two vehicles, a big chunk of the household budget. Just like many motorists in the CNMI, Falig thought that the sizeable drop in crude oil prices in recent months would also mean lower price at the pump on the islands but that has not happened.

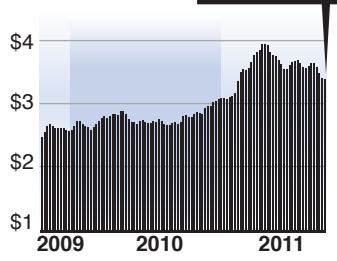
Pump prices

U.S. weekly average retail price for one gallon of regular unleaded gasoline:

Since last week 1¢

Week ending Oct. 10, 2011 $3.42

Two-year trend



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Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

Amid the fairly steady drop in crude oil prices—some $80 to $85 a barrel compared

See OIL PRICES on Page 4

'Don't lose hope on parole-in-place, improved status'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Florida-based human rights activist Wendy Doromal and United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed stressed in Washington, D.C. Tuesday the urgent need for the Obama administration to grant parole-in-place to some 16,000 legal foreign workers in the CNMI until Congress acts on an Interior Department recommendation to grant them improved immigration status.

Syed and Doromal, a former Rota teacher, met with Interior assistant secretary for insular areas Tony Babauta on Tuesday in the nation's capital where they also discussed the need for legislation to address permanent residency status for all legal, long-term foreign resident workers.

See HOPE on Page 4

Local

IT&E seeks to intervene in GTA's application to do business here

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Telecommunication company IT&E wants to intervene in the application of a Guam-based competitor that is seeking permission from the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission to set up shop in the CNMI.

In a Sept. 27 letter to PUC chair Viola Alepuyo, IT&E counsel Victorino DLG. Torres said that IT&E wants to intervene in the application of GTA Services LLC to do business in the Commonwealth and asks that it be allowed to participate in the process.

"We would like to preserve our rights to be an active participant in all proceedings relating to and concerning GTA's application and petitions. As an active participant, we would like the full opportunity to make certain procedural and substantive objections, present and cross-examine witnesses, and other necessary evidence. It is our intention to be part of this process so that the commission will be fully advised of all positions," Torres stated in his letter.

GTA Services LLC filed its application with the CPUC in March this year to become a competitive local exchange carrier on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Because IT&E reportedly failed to get the documents for its review for the scheduled hearing this week, Torres urged the commission to delay making a decision on the matter until it submits its comments.

In an earlier interview with Daniel J. Tydingco, executive vice-president external and legal affairs of GTA, the company hopes for a favorable response to its application.

Once CUC approves their application, Tydingco said that GTA will immediately fulfill all the technical requirements so they could immediately provide services to CNMI residents. Among these is the establishment of an office on Saipan. Among the services that will be offered are Internet and telephone services.

Given the ties between the CNMI and Guam, Tydingco said he is confident in the success of their planned investment.

Tydingco refused to disclose the amount GTA plans to invest in the CNMI pending the commission's approval.

Woman gets 72-hour sentence for assault

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A female mixed martial arts fighter who reportedly took the gun of her police officer-boyfriend during a fight at their residence in As Perdido pleaded guilty yesterday to the charge of assault and battery.

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman accepted Jenypy Naim Sambile's guilty plea and sentenced her to a year in prison, all suspended except for 72 hours.

The 25-year-old Sambile given credit for the 24 hours she had already served in jail. She will begin serving the rest of her sentence on Nov. 12, 2011, and will be released on Nov. 14.

After completing the prison term, Sambile will be placed on one year of probation, during which she will be barred from drinking alcohol. She was also required to pay a $100 fine, $25 court assessment, plus probation fee and attend an alcohol and drug counseling and anger management courses.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Sambile with assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. She copped a plea for assault and battery in exchange for the dismissal of the remaining charge.

The case arose from an incident on July 31, 2011, when Sambile and her boyfriend, police officer Josef Deleon Guerrero, had a fight, during which they struggled for possession of Deleon Guerrero's .9mm pistol. He managed to make her drop the gun by choking her.

Sambile, a government employee known as "So-High La" in MMA events, was arrested on Sept. 6 after investigators found her to be the aggressor in the incident.

Ex-MMA fighter arrested anew, this time for threats

Former heavyweight mixed martial art fighter Antonio Wabol Nekaifes was arrested again Monday afternoon, this time for allegedly threatening to kill his common-law wife and their children.

Nekaifes, also known as Xcalibur, was taken to the Superior Court on Tuesday on charges of disturbing the peace. His bail was set at $500 cash.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos pointed out that Nekaifas has four previous criminal convictions and warned him that if disobeys the court's bail order, he will stay in jail until the trial.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan, who took the witness stand, said that a police officer had responded Monday afternoon to a residence in Chalan Laulau after a caller sought help against Nekaifes. Pangelinan said the caller was the mother of Nekaifas' common-law wife.

According to the mother, Nekaifes threatened to kill his wife and her family members, including their children.

She said that Nekaifes would usually get mad and threaten to hurt family members whenever he is drunk. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Ex-detention guard's sentencing delayed anew

Due to objections to the presentence investigation report, the federal court on Tuesday postponed again the sentencing of Tyron Farley Reyes Fitial, a former detention guard who pleaded guilty to enticing an underaged girl.

He will now be sentenced on Nov. 30, 2011 at 9am.

Attorney Joseph Norita Camacho and co-counsel Michael Norita Evangelista had both objected to the pre-sentence investigation report prepared by the U.S. Probation Office.

Camacho pointed out that his client only pleaded guilty to enticing a minor but the presentence report used allegations in two other charges to bolster Fitial's sentence.

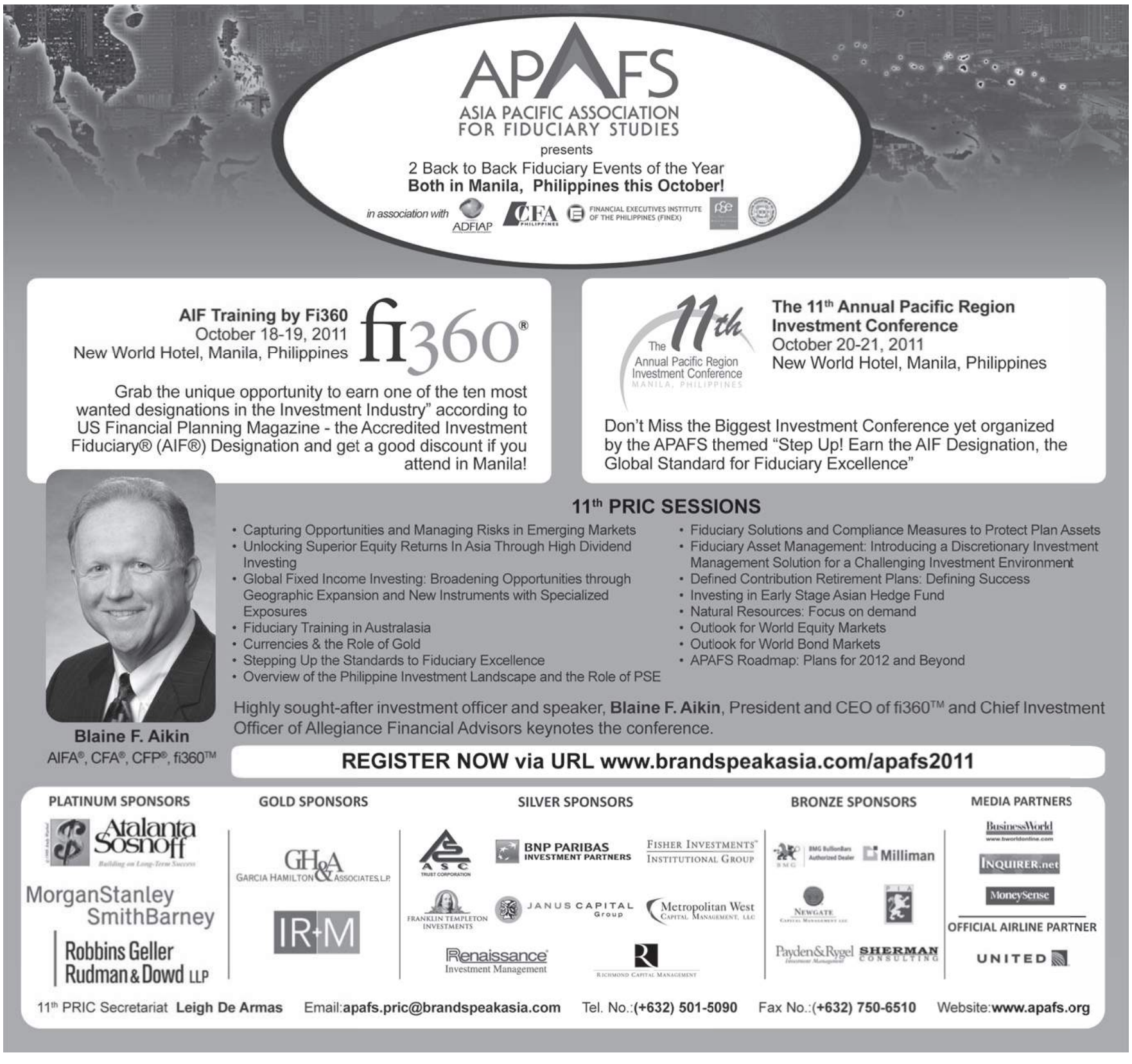
Evangelista told *Saipan Tribune* that the federal sentencing guidelines gives some fairness in how a defendant is sentenced, so similar offenses are sentenced within a certain range.

"That is all Tyron [Fitial] is asking, that he be sentenced according to the facts that he pled guilty [to]," Evangelista said.

Fitial's original sentencing date was July 21, 2011.

Fitial, a former detention guard at the Juvenile Detention Unit, pleaded guilty in April to enticing a minor, but not the actual sexual penetration.

The Office of the Attorney General has filed in the Superior Court 11 criminal charges against Fitial over the same incident. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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Man armed with screwdriver robs tourist at Suicide Cliff

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An unidentified man armed with a screwdriver robbed a female Russian tourist Tuesday afternoon at Suicide Cliff in Marpi and took off in her rented car.

The operations manager of Belka Tours, who went to Suicide Cliff after learning about the incident, said the victim was scared, visibly trembling, and fearful for her safety. She was reportedly expected to cut short her vacation on Saipan because of the incident.

The tourist lost her bag containing over $100 cash, a digital camera that costs $1,200, hotel keys, some documents, and other items.

The victim has bruises on her elbows that she sustained after falling to the ground during the struggle.

The manager, who asked that he not be identified, said he received a call yesterday afternoon that the car—a 2011 white Toyota Corolla—had been recovered.

There was no information yet if the suspect had been arrested. The Department of Public Safety has yet to release information about the robbery.

The Belka Tours operations manager said that the victim had rented a car and drove alone to Suicide Cliff where she spent about 10 minutes taking pictures.

When the tourist went back to her car and got on the driver's seat, a man whose face was covered with a scarf suddenly entered the passenger side.

The suspect poked the screwdriver at the victim and grabbed the car keys from her. The victim tried to push the suspect, triggering a struggle that ended when the victim fell outside the car. The suspect managed to get the victim's bag and took off with the vehicle.

Some Japanese tourists who were in scooters witnessed the incident. They tried to help the victim by assisting her and calling the police.

The manager said the victim, who still had her cell phone, called Russia about the incident. The manager said it was their agent in Russia who then contacted him.

He said when he arrived at Suicide Cliff at 4:50pm, police were already at the scene, interviewing the victim and witnesses.

The manager noticed that the victim was shaking. He then dropped her back at her hotel.

"She's disappointed," the manager said.

This was the victim's first visit to Saipan. She arrived on Sunday and is expected to cut short her stay.

The manager said he is really sad with what had happened as this will result in bad publicity about Saipan in Russia.

"We're trying to promote Saipan and this kind of incident will damage the tourism business," he pointed out.

Several tourists have fallen prey to burglars in Suicide Cliff and other tourist spots in Marpi in the last few years.

The Russian market is composed of mostly quality tourists who stay longer than one week at a minimum. They mostly come from the Far East Russia cities of Khabarovsk, Yugno-Sakhalinsk, and Vladivostok. About 422 Russian tourists visited the CNMI in August this year, from 383 during the same month last year.

AT THE PARK
A young girl rides her bicycle on the grounds of the American Memorial Park in Garapan on Monday, which was CNMI Cultural Day. Many families spent the government's four-day weekend either at the beach or at the park.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Nine lawyers contracted by Fund; more may be needed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund disclosed yesterday that there are nine lawyers currently serving the agency to represent the board and its management in different legal matters.

Fund legal counsel Viola Alepuyo said, however, that this is not considered "excessive" and does not incur too much cost for the agency as most of these lawyers work on either short-term or per-hour basis.

Alepuyo made the clarification to belie claims that the Fund employs too many attorneys.

Depending on the impact of the Beneficiaries Derivative Act, Alepuyo said the Fund may need more lawyers in anticipation of potential litigation that may arise from the new law. The Act allows retirees to sue if the Fund board refuses to take such legal action.

Alepuyo said the Fund has only two in-house legal counsels who get regular salaries—Christopher Timmons and Carolyn Kern. The rest, including herself, are paid on a per-hour basis.

"I want to point out that there are only two in-house counsel receiving regular salary from the Fund. Everybody else only gets paid when they work," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Based on its records, the Fund's expenditures for legal fees and representations amounted to $250,000 in fiscal year 2010. The amount significantly declined to only over $100,000 in fiscal year 2011.

Alepuyo's contract is for one year and she is paid $150 per hour of service to the board of trustees. *Saipan Tribune* learned that she volunteered to reduce her rate in fiscal year 2011—from $200 per hour down to $150 per hour—in consideration of the agency's financial situation.

Alepuyo resigned last month in the wake of the newly signed Beneficiaries Derivative Act. Another lawyer, Braddock J. Huesman, has also resigned. Both were asked to stay for now to assist in the smooth transfer of the Fund's cases to their successors.

Of the Fund's nine lawyers, Alepuyo said that three serve as administrative hearing officers: Maya Kara, Bruce Mailman, and Edward Manibusan. They handle appeals for the Fund, the Workers Compensation Commission, and other areas.

Alepuyo said the present number of administrative hearing officers is pursuant to the needs of the agency and in accordance with the findings of the agency's internal auditors.

She cited as example the influx of appeals from members who disagree with the decision of the Fund pertaining to underpayment and overpayment in their benefits as well as double-dipping issues.

Alepuyo said the two in-house counsel—Timmon and Kern—cannot handle administrative cases because they represent the Fund on these administrative appeals. Other contract attorneys hired by the Fund are John Rice, who handles cases pertaining to investment matters; and Mark Hanson, who handles a specific case for the Fund.

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4 healthcare corp. board nominees face serious challenges

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

If and when confirmed by the Senate, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's four nominees to the first Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board of directors will face serious challenges that include maintaining a budget of at least $22 million for the next two years, upgrading hospital facilities and equipment, and creating a health insurance exchange under Obama's healthcare reform.

The four nominees—Joaquin S. Torres and Roy T. Rios of Saipan, Anthony H. Aguon of Tinian, and Pedro Q. Dela Cruz of Rota—faced the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation at a public hearing on their nomination yesterday on Capital Hill.

They all vowed to work hard and use their skills, knowledge, and experience in moving the healthcare corporation forward.

Dr. Jon Joyner, senior policy adviser to the governor and lieutenant governor, presented the four nominees to the Senate EAGI Committee chaired by Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

Cruz, during a question-and-answer, asked the nominees whether they are aware and approve of their role, should they be confirmed, as an "advisory" board and not a "governing" board.

The nominees said while they do not have a problem with the way the law is currently written, they would want it amended later.

Joyner said the nominees were chosen after consultation with their respective delegations.

"These nominees bring to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Board of Trustees innovative approaches to healthcare management and education that will prove to reduce our morbidity levels of diabetes, stroke, heart problems, and cancer," Joyner said.

Former governor Juan N. Babauta, now one of Fitial's special advisers, testified at the public hearing and laid out the challenges faced by the nominees and the healthcare corporation besides asking the senators to expedite the nominees' confirmation.

Babauta said that the Commonwealth Health Center, Rota Health Center, and Tinian Health Center are all nearly 30 years old and needing rehabilitation.

"The federal government gave us nearly $30 million to build and equip it. It is ours and we should take care of it. We are blessed with this but at the same time we should bear some responsibility as well," he said.

He also cited the need to replace or upgrade big-ticket equipment such as generator, boiler, bio-medical equipment, X-ray, elevators, and incinerator. He said there's also a need to quickly find an alternative energy source, given that CHC alone pays some $2.4 million in utilities a year.

Finances

The Department of Public Health's budget has dropped from $42 million in fiscal year 2006 to $5 million in fiscal year 2012.

"We are generating roughly 15 cents to 20 cents on the dollar. We need to generate more than that," Babauta said.

He also said the CNMI needs a comprehensive policy for providing healthcare services for the indigent because under the law, the corporation cannot deny anyone medical care.

Babauta cited as an example of a challenge some 20 patients on dialysis, all of whom are non-CNMI, non-U.S. citizens and have no money to pay for care. They are receiving $1.2 million in care a year.

"We need to negotiate payment with their respective governments because this is unsustainable for CHCC," he said.

Babauta also asked for a legislative oversight hearing and come up with solutions on the Medicaid program.

When asked whether Babauta is willing to serve as chief executive officer of the healthcare corporation he said, "No comment."

HOPE

From Page 1

The United Workers Movement-NMI has long been asking for "green card" or a pathway to U.S. citizenship for long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

Doromal said that the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus would be meeting with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on Wednesday "and these issues would be raised."

"We hope that she will hear the pleas of the foreign workers and their families," Doromal said.

In a statement she posted on her blog, unheardnomore.blogspot.com, Doromal said she's hopeful that their message will be met with some positive action to introduce legislation to grant "all" legal, long-term foreign contract workers permanent residency.

"At the very least, we must get parole-in-place secured for all legal, long-term foreign resident workers until such time as Congress gets together to act properly on the DOI report that was issued in April 2010," said Doromal, who allowed *Saipan Tribune* to publish her statements from her Unheard No More blog.

She said the messages from workers that she hand-carried to Washington, D.C. represent a wide range of emotions—"from anguish, fear, and betrayal to hope and acceptance."

Jun Concillado, vice president of United Workers Movement-NMI, echoed Doromal and Syed's statements.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Rabby Syed, Assistant Secretary of Insular Affairs Tony Babauta, Wendy Doromal, and Nousher Jahedi at the U.S. Department of Interior.

"Don't lose hope," he said.

Syed, in a statement, urged legal alien workers "to be unified" in asking for "green card, a pathway to U.S. citizenship."

In June this year, Doromal delivered her and Syed's letters to Obama, appealing for the President to take administration action "to protect 16,000" legal foreign workers in the CNMI.

"While permanent residency with a pathway to U.S. citizenship is our goal, immediate protection is needed now. I urge you to take administrative action to grant the CNMI's legal nonresident workers parole-in-place status, employment authorization, and eligibility to apply for employment-based visas," Doromal told Obama in her letter.

Foreign workers in the CNMI have until Nov. 27 to have their employers apply for a Commonwealth-only worker classification for them.

Without a filed CW petition for them by Nov. 27, foreign workers lose their status and could face deportation.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said Tuesday that he is thinking of requesting DHS to extend by at least 60 days the Nov. 27 deadline for "humanitarian" reason.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said Inos and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial—who arrived early Wednesday morning—have yet to discuss such a request.

CUC

From Page 1

capital expenses.

CUC officials, in testimonies submitted to the commission, also disclosed that CUC's wastewater accounts have declined by almost 50 percent in the past four years. As accounts decline, usage dropped, resulting in lower revenues.

The petition also disclosed that many water and wastewater operating costs have increased due to inflation and other factors beyond CUC's control and, like other businesses, when CUC's costs increase "it has no choice but to pass these costs through its customers." Without the needed rate hike, it said that CUC will continue to lose money, which risks bankruptcy and insolvency.

Based on an updated financial statement, CUC's water division already has an operating loss of $3.1 million as of Aug. 31 this year. The wastewater division's loss? $2.3 million

"We are caught between an increasing amount of expenses that have to be spread over declining number of customers and usage. This inevitably leads to the need for further rate increases," said CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren in his testimony.

Water and wastewater rates were last adjusted in June 2010. CUC wants to implement the new rates on Feb. 1, 2012.

Once approved by the commission, the new rates will result in a 12 percent to 56 percent increase in the monthly billing of residential ratepayers.

Residential customers using less than 5,000 gallons will experience the lowest rate increase of 12 percent, from the current $20.55 to $23.07 monthly. Users of 5,000 gallons and more will incur the highest increase at 56 percent, from the existing monthly rate of $39.66 to $61.75.

Residential customers using 10,000 gallons and above will experience a 55-percent increase, from the existing monthly bill of $74.88 to $115.73, while users of 15,000 gallons and above will experience a 54-percent increase, from $112.23 to $172.38 a month.

For users of 20,000 gallons and above, the proposed rate will boost the cost from $155.03 a month to $232.64—a 50-percent increase.

For those consuming 50,000 gallons and above, CUC wants a 42-percent increase—from $430.03 to $612.39 a month.

The proposed rate plan does not include unmetered and flat rate customers because CUC intends to phase them out once the metering program is complete.

CPUC chair Viola Alepuyo told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the petition will not be included in the commission's business meeting next month and has yet to say when it may be placed on the commission's agenda.

New class of customers, other fees

Besides new rates for water and wastewater, CUC also wants to establish several new customer classes to gain a better understanding of the usage patterns of CUC's customers and to ensure that eventually each unique customer class will pay its own cost of service. It proposes the creation of residential, multi-family, commercial, CUC, government, and public schools classes.

A 50-percent increase in the current tariff for sewer dumping charges is also being sought. The $25 fee was established many years ago for each dump of 500-1,000 gallons of concentrated sewage into CUC's wastewater system. CUC said this fee does not cover the operational and administration costs of CUC. It wants to raise the amount to $50.

CUC also wants to charge $50 for inspection/testing for verification of backflow devices. The inspection of "check valves," also known as backflow prevention devices, is a federal and NMI regulated program that is being developed. These devices are placed on residential, commercial, and industrial services. CUC also seek to establish fees for all "non-rate" services such as sewer dumping charges. The agency also recommends some revisions to its rules and regulations.

OIL PRICES

From Page 1

to over $100 a barrel at the start of the year—fuel prices at the pump are not dropping as quickly as island motorists would hope for.

Last week, crude oil dipped to its lowest price since September 2010 to below $78 a barrel.

"It's ludicrous," said Falig, referring to the $4.75 a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline on Saipan despite decreasing crude oil prices. "Gas is about a third of our monthly expenses. We used to spend less than $100 in gas every two weeks about a year ago."

Martin Igitol, a government retiree, said CNMI motorists should start seeing a reduction in gas prices by now.

"How long should we wait until they drop the prices? When did they buy the fuel we're still paying high prices for?" he asked.

Igitol said he just returned from Florida for a family matter and they were able to fill their Toyota Tundra rental vehicle for just $25.

"Here, a full tank for a Toyota Tundra could be $100. That's the price difference between the U.S. and Saipan," he said. Igitol said he misses the time when he'd only spend $22 a week for his pickup truck. He now spends $60 a week for gas.

Benusto Piteg, of Koblerville, said island motorists need "relief" from paying $4.75 a gallon of regular gas.

"What we spend on fuel could have been spent on something else like food," he said, adding that Mobil, Shell, and even shipping companies should lower their prices.

Matson Navigation Co. has already reduced its fuel surcharge for the third time in a row because of the cut in the price of bunker fuel used to power its fleet.

Jeff Boyer, CNMI area manager for IP&E/Shell, said yesterday that the CNMI is still using "high-end stocks" but is about to change to "newer products."

"We're getting there," he said, when asked whether CNMI motorists will soon see a reduction in pump prices.

In the meantime, motorists should observe conservation practices, he said.

The office of Jaime Ortega, president and country manager of Mobil Oil Guam, has yet to respond to media questions about fuel prices yesterday.

Mobil earlier said that retail pump prices are affected by a combination of factors, which include internationally traded wholesale prices, operating and capital cost, distribution costs, taxes and duties, currency exchange rates, and market competition.

A 41-year-old private sector employee, for his part, said that Saipan motorists should at least have a 5 to 10 cents decrease in gas prices, considering the reduced prices of crude oil.

"If they bought the gas prices at higher prices, how long will it take for them to market it and sell it?" he said.

Shell/IP&E and Mobil do not issue advance notices of price changes, so many Saipan motorists only learn of price changes by the price displays at gasoline stations.

The last time Mobil and Shell changed their prices was in July, increasing the prices by 10 cents a gallon.

Since then, a gallon of regular unleaded gas has been $4.759 a gallon, while super/premium unleaded gasoline is $5.079 a gallon. Diesel is $5.219 a gallon, higher than the current CNMI minimum wage of $5.05 an hour.

Gas prices in the CNMI are among—if not the—highest in the U.S. and its territories.

Govt to conduct census—not survey sample—of businesses

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two weeks after the public release of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's prevailing wage survey results, the government will conduct its own "census"—not a survey sample—of all public and private businesses in the CNMI starting with the training of its survey staff next week.

The government census is broader in scope than that of the Chamber's survey that the U.S. Department of the Interior funded for $16,500 in technical assistance grant.

The Chamber's "2011 Survey of Wages and Salaries among Specified Jobs and Organizations in the CNMI" is intended mainly for employers who will apply for H-1B work visas for their employees. It was the first ever prevailing wage survey conducted in the CNMI.

Ivan A. Blanco, director of the Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division, said the government will hire enumerators "to visit all businesses and conduct interviews and complete survey questionnaires."

Blanco cited three things that make the government survey different from that of the Chamber's.

"First, it's a census of all business entities in the CNMI and not a survey sample," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Second, he said that Commerce's CSD is mandated by Public Law 7-35 to conduct such surveys in the CNMI and businesses are encouraged to provide data that CSD requests for.

"At the same time, confidentiality of data collected is protected and penalties of breach of such provisions are covered under the same law," Blanco said.

Besides prevailing wage data, Commerce's CSD is also going to "collect information that will be used for local labor force training programs and for business policy decisions," he added.

Survey staff training is set for the week of Oct. 17 to 22, "and field data collection commences right after training is completed."

Blanco said there are an estimated 1,400 business establishments in the CNMI with some 16,000 employees.

He said private and public sectors are covered in the survey scope.

For public sector entities, Commerce's CSD is working closely with Department of Finance to gather administrative data that will be used for the survey report.

Private sector entities with employees will be visited by enumerators and will have a questionnaire completed for them.

These are releasable data that are not "confidential and identifiable" in nature," Blanco said.

Because the government census covers both private and public entities, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is also encouraging businesses to cooperate in the government census.

Richard Pierce, Chamber executive director, said at a Strategic Economic Development Council meeting in early July that the Chamber "agreed to assist the CNMI in its census, as the CNMI agreed to provide us data we needed for our survey that's available now online."

Based on the Chamber survey, private and public employees in the CNMI are paid anywhere between $3.25 an hour and $100 an hour.

Results of the Chamber's survey are now available online at www.saipanchamber.com, free of charge to anyone interested in the information.

Pierce reiterated that the Chamber conducted its prevailing wage survey for employers applying for H-1B visas only.

"Most employers were anxious as the government had yet to conduct any survey for the inevitable day when those wage rates would be needed. I assume the CNMI census would need to have data delineated from a general business census for wage rates depending upon the visa classification needed for individual petitions," he said.

Government data collection is expected to be completed in four to six weeks. Data editing and tabulations follow immediately.

Blanco said $15,000 has been "encumbered" for the survey, while additional funding for enumeration and other costs are being sourced from the local government.

"We welcome any additional federal funding to support this project," he said.

The government awarded a $15,000 sole-source contract to Data Talks for the prevailing wage survey.

The Fitial administration applied for an over $40,000 grant with the U.S. Department of Labor for the survey. It's not yet known whether Labor had rejected the application.

Another Chamber member said that, had the Chamber not initiated a prevailing wage survey, the government won't have scrambled to do something on its own.

"One man's work is another man's inspiration," he said.

CPUC holds off decision on proposed LEAC adjustment

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission is "unsure" whether it will approve or reject a proposal to tweak the current levelized energy accrued adjustment, or LEAC, rate of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

In yesterday's meeting, commissioners Viola Alepuyo and Joaquin Manglona opted not to decide on the proposal pending the submission of all necessary records and data from CUC, its consultant, economist.com, and the commission's own consultant, Georgetown Consulting.

"The commission has yet made a determination and refused to decide [on the matter] because we want to make sure records are complete and everybody is given the opportunity," Alepuyo told *Saipan Tribune.*

The commission has set a public hearing on the LEAC issue on Nov. 14; a decision is expected during a Nov. 17 business meeting.

Georgetown Consulting had already recommended the adjustment, saying there's a need to do so because of "over-recoveries" made by the utilities agency, when it charged customers more than the actual amount it needed to "recover" the cost of fuel.

Alepuyo pointed out, though, that not all recommendations of its consultant gets the commission's approval.

"We don't follow all of Georgetown's recommendations because ultimately, our decision is based on what is fair, just, and reasonable for the customers," she said.

Besides the LEAC issue, the commission will also decide at its Nov. 17 meeting other CUC matters such as CUC's loan application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, audit reports and its findings, the Telesource contract for Tinian, net metering, and alternative energy.

Georgetown earlier said that CUC's LEAC is unquestionably higher than required and should be reduced at the earliest date possible.

For instance, the current LEAC rate is set at an effective fuel price of $3.55 per gallon (inclusive of the volatility element). However, the current price of fuel oil and the October 2011 gasoil futures are priced at less than $2.90 per gallon—a difference of $0.65 per gallon or almost 20 percent. It believes that there was an over-recovery situation between May 2010 and November 2010.

CUC deputy executive director Alan Fletcher disputes this, saying there is no evidence of over-recovery.

He insists that the analysis indicating an "over-recovery" of LEAC revenues is based on incorrect and unsupported assumptions.

The LEAC rate is a component of the power bill that reflects the cost of fuel. It is supposed to go up or down to reflect the cost of buying fuel to run the power plants.

NATIONAL DENTAL HYGIENE MONTH

‘Sugar is bad; flossing and a healthy diet are good’

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

October is National Dental Hygiene Month and the Seventh-Day Adventist Dental Clinic is once again at the forefront of raising awareness about the importance of oral health via presentations to public and private school students.

Lori Serna, SDA dental hygienist, initiated the educational campaign at the Saipan SDA School in San Antonio yesterday.

Equipped with her tooth fairy accessories, a toothbrush, and a mouth prop, Serna demonstrated to students from kindergarten to eighth grade the proper way of brushing teeth and how proper brushing and regular flossing contribute to oral hygiene care.

Serna said the SDA Dental Clinic puts out articles in newspapers, messages on billboards, and visits various schools to heighten awareness on the issue of oral health that, “unfortunately, affects children in particular since they don’t have the same voice or the same presence as grownups.”

“The problem becomes much more involved than that,” said Serna. Children who suffer from toothaches have difficulty sleeping, eating, and even paying attention in class. “It really impacts a lot of their quality time.”

Serna said the role of parents on their children’s oral health is “critical.”

“Just because they can hold a pencil does not mean that they have the manual dexterity to brush their teeth. As parents, you have to follow up ‘til they’re about 9 or 10 years old. Guide them,” she said.

According to Serna, following up on children ensures proper brushing of critical areas in the mouth “which are the top of the teeth and on the insides.”

“Where your tongue rests, especially on the back side, that is where I find 99 percent of the plaque on kids who come to the clinic,” she revealed.

Serna also emphasized the importance of flossing. “For every area that you don’t floss, you’re looking at two cavities. For every area that you floss, you just saved two teeth or two surfaces.”

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Seventh-Day Adventist Dental Clinic hygienist Lori Serna is flanked by SDA School staff and kindergarten students holding their free toothbrushes yesterday.

The dental hygienist underscored the negative impact of eating candies—particularly hard candies—since these candies contain a lot of sugar, which is bad for the teeth.

“For every second that sugar is in your mouth, bacteria has the open opportunity to poop in the mouth and teeth and make cavity,” said Serna.

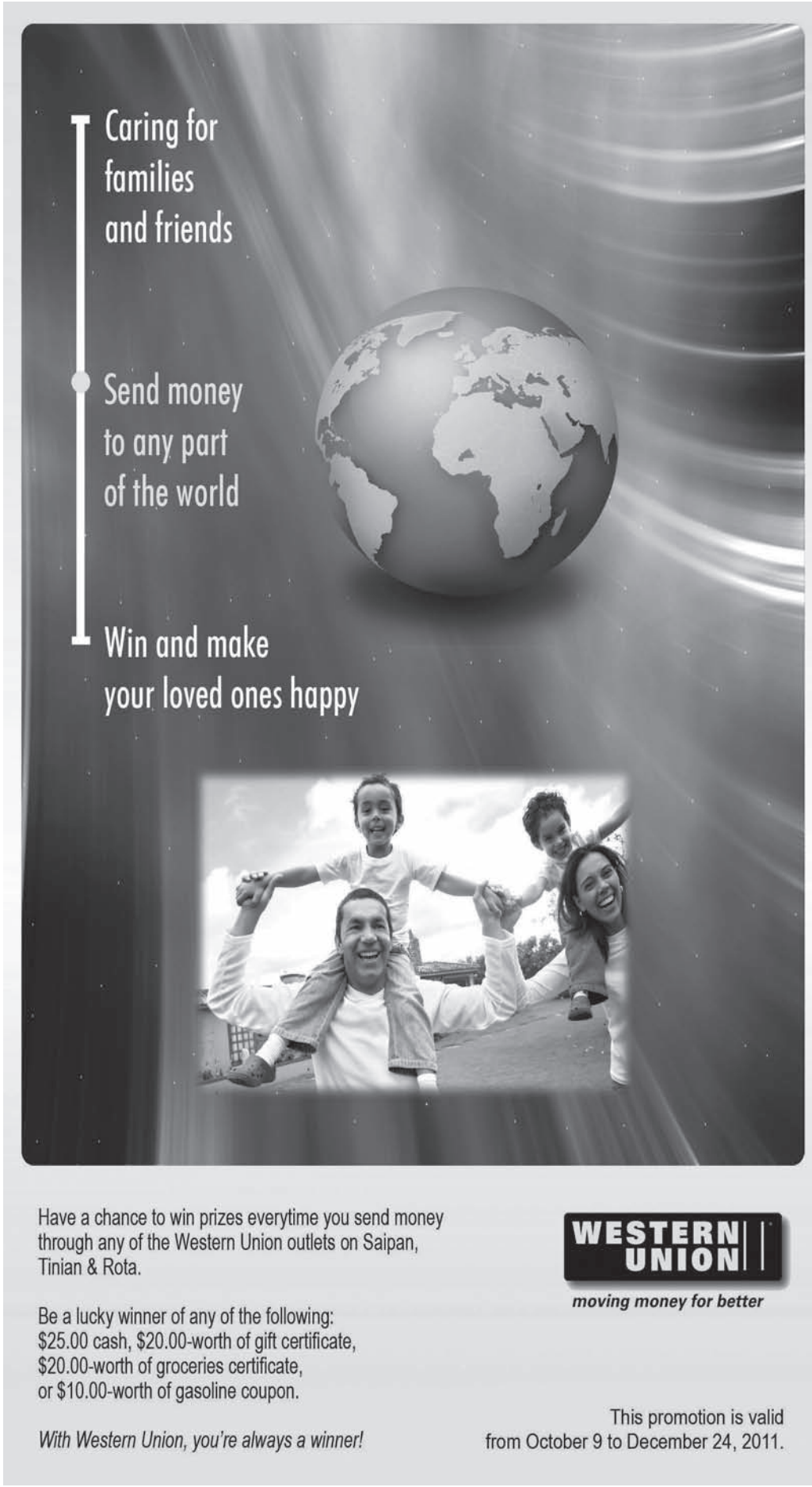
With the day for trick-or-treating drawing near, Serna said there are “smart ways” to deal with children who want candies or chocolates for Halloween, including having them with a meal and not in between meals, giving them in “ideal” portions, and following it up with water “always.”

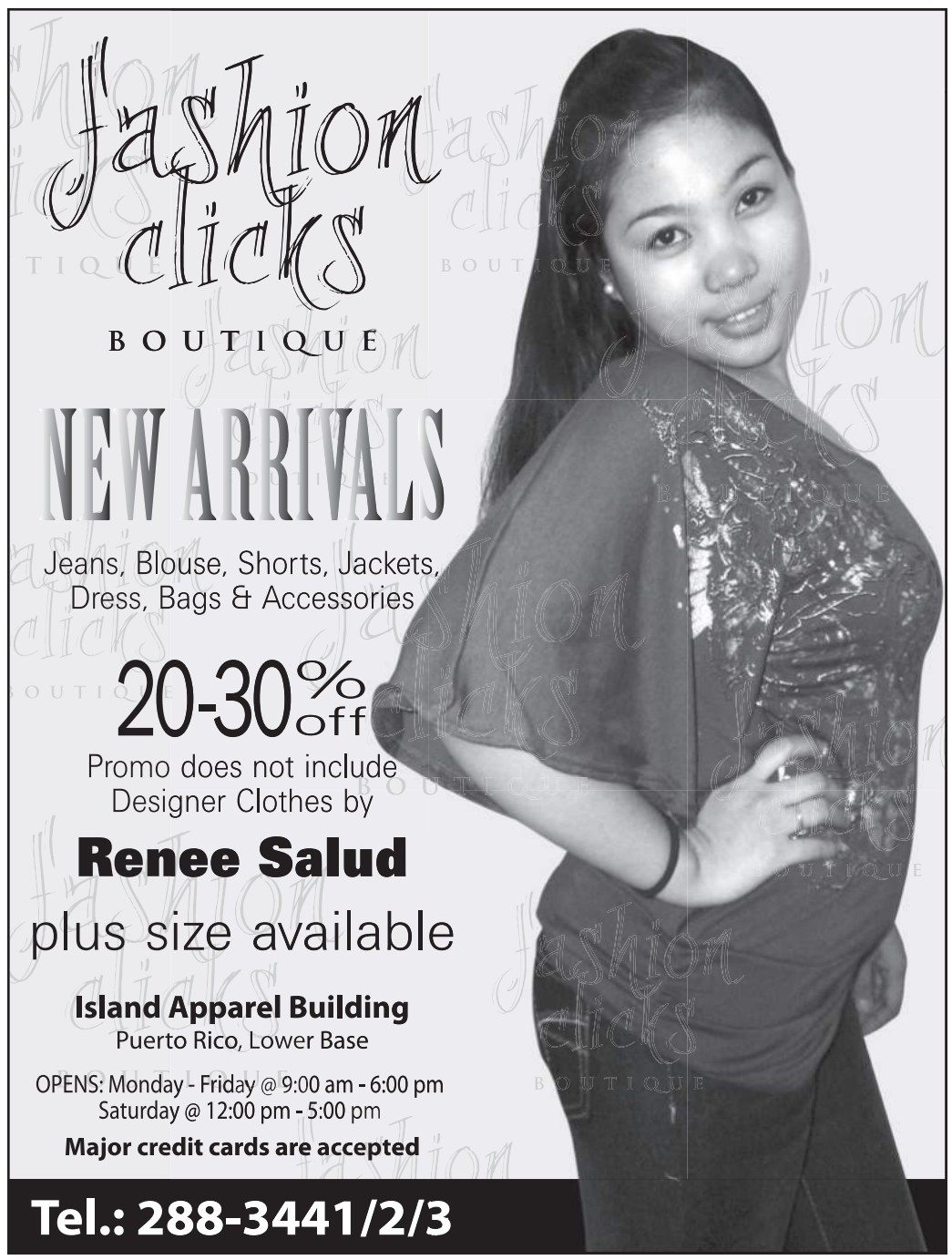
“Just being wise about those things makes a huge difference,” she added.

For the month of October, SDA Dental Clinic will be giving away free dental exams for children up to 16 years old. Free toothbrushes and dental flosses will also be given away at the clinic and outreach presentations.

“No walk-ins. Just call, make an appointment, and we’ll see them. We’ll have a dentist and we’ll answer all questions,” said Serna, adding that they will provide tips tailored specifically to each patient.

To make an appointment or for more information, call 234-6323.


Caring for families and friends
Send money to any part of the world
Win and make your loved ones happy
Have a chance to win prizes everytime you send money through any of the Western Union outlets on Saipan, Tinian & Rota.
Be a lucky winner of any of the following:
$25.00 cash, $20.00-worth of gift certificate,
$20.00-worth of groceries certificate,
or $10.00-worth of gasoline coupon.
With Western Union, you’re always a winner!
WESTERN UNION
moving money for better
This promotion is valid from October 9 to December 24, 2011.



Serenity Salon & Spa turns 6 with special deals, promos

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID

The highly skilled and professional staff of Serenity Salon & Spa ensure that every visit gives customers royal treatment. From left, Michelle Santos, Mercy Garcia, Analyn Nisola, Angie Posada, Pinky Antonino, and Venus Grenio.

Serenity Salon & Spa, the premier full service salon and spa on island, celebrates its sixth anniversary this October with great deals and promotions for the ultimate pampering experience.

From Oct. 14 to 16, Serenity Salon & Spa in Garapan will once again offer their "buy one service to get one-half price off for every second service purchased" promotion as a show of appreciation to all customers.

Nenita Ta, who established the business in 2005 with husband Ta Bun Kuy, said the promotion applies to all salon and spa services, including massage, body scrub, hair treatment, waxing, and nail care.

"We want all our clients to know that we are overwhelmed by their support and loyalty in the six years we've been on the business," Ta told *Saipan Tribune*. "Without them, Serenity Salon & Spa wouldn't enjoy the success that it does today."

Despite the economic downturn and continued outflow of CNMI residents, Ta said that their clientele base has remained strong with the help of both regular and new customers.

"I believe that our secret to success is that Serenity Salon & Spa is always known for its high standards of service. Our competent and friendly staff are also committed to fostering a relationship with our customers to make them feel at home. We know what the customers like and we ensure that they get that in every visit," she said.

For their anniversary, Serenity Salon & Spa will also offer their selection of popular packages with prices ranging from $55 to $200 to make pampering even more affordable.

Serenity Salon & Spa's anniversary is also marked with the launching of additional services that customers can enjoy.

For those who want to enhance their eyes, Serenity Salon & Spa is the first on island to offer Latisse, the eyelash enhancement drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, for just $150 per set.

Customers who want to unwind and feel refreshed can now avail of their Hot Stone massage, a welcome addition to Serenity Salon & Spa's massage line choices.

Ta disclosed that they are poised to launch additional services such as the IPL or permanent hair removal, a non-surgical liposuction treatment, as well as whitening treatment.

All these are in addition to their Diamond Peel service, the fast and pain-free non-surgical skin exfoliation treatment for customers who want to keep their skin young-looking.

As an added bonus, Ta said they plan to hold a raffle draw that would give away hundreds worth of free services as prizes.

Every customer who avails of the BOGO promotion gets a raffle coupon for a chance to win the third prize, Package G, which includes Anti-Aging Facial, Diamond Peel, and Hair Spa Treatment valued at $55; second prize is Package C, which includes the three services plus Body Scrub with Honey Body Polish valued at $80; and the grand prize of Package A worth $100 and includes the four services plus manicure/pedicure.

Other consolation prizes will be given away during the raffle draw on Sunday.

"At Serenity Salon & Spa, we do not compromise quality over price. What we do is we try to minimize our overhead so we keep the same prices and avoid weighing down our customers with the impact of problems such as high utility costs," said Ta.

She urged the public to visit Serenity Salon & Spa and avail of their anniversary deals and discounts. "We assure you of customer satisfaction in every visit and sustain high quality in all services that we offer."

For royal salon and spa treatment, visit Serenity Salon & Spa at the second floor of Dollar Days Wholesale in Garapan. For appointment or more information, call 233-6688

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MLSC sets parole-in-place workshops

Micronesian Legal Services Corp. has already held the parole-in-place workshop for immediate relatives of Freely Associated States citizens. Those who didn't attend can pick up the folder with forms at its office in Civic Center, Susupe, Saipan.

MLSC will be having a parole-in-place workshop for IRs of U.S. citizens on Saipan on Oct. 16, 2011, Sunday, at 1pm at American Memorial Park.

They will also be holding similar workshops on Rota and Tinian, with a change of venue for Rota.

■ **Rota:** Oct. 13, Rota at Rota Mayor's Office at noon

■ **Tinian:** Tinian Elementary School at 3pm

They will have a final parole-in-place workshop for CNMI permanent residents and for those born between 1974 and 1978 on Sunday, Oct. 23 at 1pm at American Memorial Park.

There is no charge for these workshops. However, space is limited and when the auditorium is full, the doors will be closed. Please do not bring minor children to the workshops. Please do not leave minor children unattended in the Park, museum or gift shop or at the Rota or Tinian venues. ***(MLSC)***

Cha Cha Parents Literacy Night tonight

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that Cha Cha Ocean View Jr. High School will be having its SY 2010-2011 Parents Literacy night tonight, Oct. 13, 2011, from 5pm to 7pm. Cha Cha is encouraging parents and guardians to join us in this fun-filled night. The first 50 student whose parents arrive at the Parent Literacy Night will receive a free COJHS shirt in November. Call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 if you have any question or concerns. ***(PR)***

Serenity Salon & Spa
Celebrating 6 years Anniversary!

Gift Card Certificate
is now available up to Oct. 16, 2011
SERVICES CAN BE USE FOR THE WHOLE MONTH OF OCTOBER.
Buy 1 gift card certificate and get a 1 raffle coupon to win lots of exciting prizes.

1/2 PRICE
FOR EVERY SECOND SERVICE
FROM OCT. 14 - 16

- Signature Massage
- Hot Stone Massage
- Deep cleansing Facial
- Anti-aging Facial
- Whitening Facial
- Anti-acne Facial
- Teen Facial
- Body Scrub w/ honey polish
- Body Scrub w/ seaweed wrap
- Body Scrub w/ whitening

- Salon Services:
  Hair coloring
  Hair Highlights
  Hair Treatment
  Hair & Make-up
  Hair Perm
  Haircut
- Other Services:
  Treading
  Eyelash Extension (Human Hair)
  Eyelash Perm

- Waxing Services:
  Brazilian
  Half Legs
  Whole legs
  Under Arms
  Mustache
  Face
  Arms
- Nail Care:
  Manicure
  Pedicure
  Hand & Foot Spa

Introducing Eyelash Grower **Latisse $150.00 Set**

Serenity Salon & Spa
Anniversary Package Promo

Package A $100
Anti-Aging Facial
Diamond Peel
Manicure/Pedicure
Body Scrub with Honey Body Polish
Hair Scalp Treatment

Package B $100
Anti-Aging Facial
Diamond Peel
Serenity Signature Massage
Body Scrub with Honey Body Polish
Hair Scalp Treatment

Package C $80
Anti Aging Facial
Diamond Peel
Body Scrub w/ Honey Body Polish
Hair Spa Treatment

Package D $75
Anti-Aging Facial
Diamond Peel
Serenity Signature Massage
Hair Spa Treatment

Package E $75
Deep Cleansing Facial
Diamond Peel
Body Scrub with Honey Polish
Hair Spa Treatment

Package F $60
Anti-Aging Facial
Serenity Signature Massage
Hair Spa Treatment

Package G $55
Anti-Aging Facial
Diamond Peel
Hair Spa Treatment

Special Package: $200
5 Anti-Aging Facial
5 Diamond Peel

GIFT CERTIFICATE AVAILABLE

For Appointment call Pinky, Mercy, Venus, Analyn, Angie & Michelle at 233-6688/2828

2/F Dollar Days Building, Garapan, Saipan

Two join CDA board as newest members

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Commonwealth Development Authority legal counsel Vicente Salas, left, swears in new board members Tom Glenn G. Quitugua and Edwin P. Aldan during a meeting yesterday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The two new members of the Commonwealth Development Authority board were sworn in during the board's meeting yesterday.

Edwin P. Aldan of Tinian and Tom Glenn G. Quitugua of Rota took their oaths administered by legal counsel Ben Salas.

The Senate confirmed the appointments of Aldan and Quitugua on Oct. 5.

Aldan will serve the remaining term of former board member Nathan Quichocho, who was removed from the post. His term expires on July 8, 2014.

Quitugua, meanwhile, will serve on the board until his term expires on April 21, 2015.

Aldan, a retired police officer for 17 years and a former congressman, said this is his first time to be appointed to any board.

"I see that I'll be trying to work with members, trying to better understand their positions and feelings about the issues that we're facing. At the same time, I see a future where we may have to work really hard to keep the corporation on track on what it's intended to do, which is to help economically develop businesses to help out the CNMI," he said.

Quitugua, who presently works as an adviser to Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, formerly served as the board chair in 2005-2006 and has already established a "working relationship" with his colleagues, some of whom are still with the board.

"As you can see, I'd like to keep that. It's the closeness of the unit—when you establish that closeness, it brings good things," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "It's exciting because we have an opportunity to be part of a movement forward, to hopefully stimulate new investments, stabilize those that are delinquent, develop policies that also can help them," he said.

The other board members are chair Pedro I. Itibus, vice chair Edward C. Sablan, secretary Edwin M. Hofschneider, and member Diego Songao.

According to Quitugua, his focus is to contribute and ensure "that everybody gets a fair shot in making it in the world" through CDA.

"We've had progress before in doing just that. There's always hope and we can do it. We can be a part of it. If we all work hand in hand, there's nothing we can't do," he added.

CDA is an autonomous agency established in 1985 primarily to stimulate economic development in the CNMI.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-DCCA/CCDF-130

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CCDF LICENSE-EXEMPT FAMILY HOME CARE PROVIDERS FOR THE DCCA CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND PROGRAM"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFIC EOF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **OCTOBER 19, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME**, AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY'S CONFERENCE ROOM LOCATED AT LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN.

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN WHOLE FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) OF 2009. THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ MELVIN L.O. FAISAO
SECRETARY OF DC&CA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Friday, October 14, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. at the PSS Conference Room, Susupe, Saipan, MP.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
1) Call to Order
2) Roll Call
3) Adoption of Agenda
4) Adoption of Minutes
a) August 25, 2011 Regular Board Meeting

II. Public Comments[1]

III. Reports
1) Chair
2) Board Committees
a) FPA
b) CIA
c) LIA
d) CIP
e) SEEIP
f) SCHOOL REFORM
g) AD HOC
3) Commissioner of Education
a) Financial Status Reports
(1) Federal
(2) Local
b) Head Start Program
c) Report on United States Custom and Immigration Services (USCIS)
d) Other matters

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
1) ARRA SFSF Fund Reprogramming
2) FY 2011 Consolidated Grant Amendment
3) Ratification of BOE-PSS Letters re OIA Technical Assistance Grant
4) Proposed Revised Compensation Plan for Classroom Teachers
5) Proposed Revised Compensation Plan for School Counselors
6) Ratification of BOE-PSS comments to Rep. Palacios on HB 17-106
7) Ratification of BOE-PSS comments to Rep. Palacios on HB 17-188
8) Establishment of School Attendance Review Committee (SARC)

VI. Executive Session[2]
1) Legal Updates
2) Personnel
3) Other matters

VII. Miscellaneous Matters
1) Education Month Proclamation
2) Recognition of Awards
3) Amendment to By-Laws
4) Teacher Rep & Non-Public School Members

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Roselyn Salazar Mendoza
P.O. Box 506655
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 789-3128

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of The Petition For The Change Of Name Of:	]	**FCD-CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0427**
AUDREY GWEN MENDOZA DOCTOLERO A Minor Child	]	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By:	]	
ROSELYN SALAZAR MENDOZA Petitioner.	]	

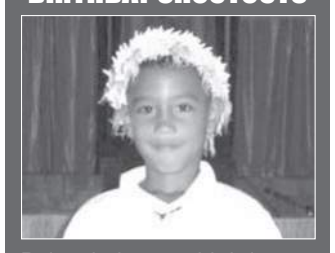
Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on **November 3, 2011, at 10:00am** in Courtroom 217, before Associate Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 30th day of September, 2011.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

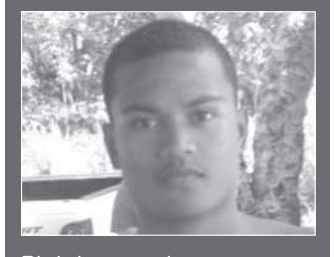


Belated happy birthday to Joaquin Henry Fleming, who celebrated his 9th birthday on Oct. 3, 2011! We love you so much! God bless and may you have many, many more birthdays to come. Love, Dad, Mom, ReMo, and LJ

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday sweetheart, Lawrence "Laling" Fleming. I don't have very much to say, but please allow me to express how much we really love you. You've been my backbone, and my support, my first, my constant, my last resort. So I count my blessings starting with you! Happy 35th birthday! You're still young! Enjoy your day and may you have many more birthdays to come! With love, your wife, Remo, LJ, Henry, family, and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Birthday greetings go out to Patrick A. Cruz who is celebrating his birthday today, Oct. 13, 2011! Wishing you a gorgeous and wonderful day on your birthday and many more to come. Greetings coming from your Dad, Mom, sister, brother, nephews, niece and your special fishermen gangs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 13, 1999

O'Connor says CUC should honor 'oral' contract

Lawyer Robert O'Connor has asked the Superior Court to deny the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s motion for summary judgment against his civil lawsuit, maintaining that the agency is bound to honor an "oral contract" between him and a CUC employee. The case stemmed from CUC's installation of a power pole on the property on Mt. Tapochau being leased by O'Connor. O'Connor, who is represented by lawyer Joseph Horey, reminded CUC that when the poles were being installed in 1996, its employee Robert Malate had agreed to move the line of power poles away from his property.

New law allows SC to tap trust funds

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has signed into law a measure allowing the Superior Court to make money out of the trust funds temporarily entrusted to the judiciary and to impose additional fines on people convicted of a criminal offense in an effort to ease pressure on government coffers. Public Law 11-105, which was requested by the Superior Court, now passes some of the financial costs to individuals who use the services of the court that are currently financed by taxpayers' money, according to the governor. Offered by Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, the new law is intended to boost the court's resources amid shrinking appropriations from the government due to continuous financial difficulties.

Oct. 13, 2000

DOF, CUC still scrutinizing $12-M unpaid bills

The Tenorio administration is still discussing with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. its unpaid billings in a bid to reach a settlement before cutting off power and water services to government offices. Mike Sablan, the governor's chief finance and budget advisor, disclosed yesterday about $1.15 million will be paid soon to CUC for utility billings covering a two-month period. He said the administration has been paying between $800,000 to $900,000 to cover its utility expenditures. He, however, did not indicate how much has been shaved from the government's outstanding balance. Last month, the government-owned utility corporation demanded payment of over $12.2 million representing overdue billings since late 1997 and threatened to disconnect its services by middle of this month.

$40K allocated for arts festival

Local artists and performers scheduled to leave for New Caledonia for an arts festival this month received $40,000 yesterday from the government after their fundraising efforts failed to reach the target. The money will cover shortfall in the $100,000 charter fee charged by Continental Micronesia to fly close to 60 participants from the CNMI to the 8th Annual Festival of Pacific Arts in the capital city of Noumea. They have raised $60,000 for the event through fundraisers held in past few weeks, but organizers sought assistance from Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and lawmakers to step up to the plate as the charter fee has to be paid this week.

Oct. 13, 2002

NMI dog control bill goes to the dogs

Gov. Juan N. Babauta has vetoed a local measure that seeks to establish a dog licensing and control act for Rota, citing six errors in the bill that he said should be amended before he considers it for passage. In his transmittal letter to Rota Legislative Delegation Chair Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig, Babauta said he was forced to send the bill back to the delegation without approving it in order to avoid any future challenges that might arise. "Therefore, I am returning this bill as disapproved. I look forward to receiving this bill in an amended version that I can approve at a later date," said Babauta.

BOE adopts Reading First initiative goals

A plan envisioned to produce proficient and advanced readers among public school students gained full support from the State Board of Education Thursday, with the adoption of the Reading First Initiative goals and objectives. Under the initiative, PSS targets that, by 2008, all students will be proficient and advanced readers by the end of the school year. Also, one of the goals set by PSS is to develop teachers who are proficient in effective standards and scientifically-based reading instruction. The other goals include placing teachers appropriately based on their credentials and endorsement and ensuring full BOE support relative to reading first initiative policies and implementation.

Inos: Exodus of Fund service providers 'disappointing'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos described as "disappointing" the exodus of NMI Retirement Fund service providers due to the passage of the Beneficiaries Derivative Act, saying this should not stop the agency from looking for their replacement so as not to hamper the pension program's operations.

"It's just disappointing, but we're going to figure out other ways. We need to go out and look for money managers, new consultants, and actuarial consultant and we should not just sit back and do nothing about it," he said Tuesday during the bi-annual membership meeting of Marianas Visitors Authority.

To date, seven service providers have terminated their contracts with the Fund. These include investment consultant Wilshire Associates, actuary adviser Buck Consultants, long-time independent auditor J. Scott Magliari, and four other money managers.

All of these firms backed out from servicing the Fund due to the anticipated increased cost in doing business with the agency as a result of potential litigations.

Inos also disclosed yesterday that the Fitial administration will argue the motion filed by some retirees to transfer the government case versus the Fund from the Superior Court to the federal district court. Inos said the administration will counter the motion.

Commonwealth Retirees Association member Sapuro Rayphand, through lawyer Bruce Jorgensen, had asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to allow the removal of the case from the superior to district court.

"We will argue it because there are certain priorities," Inos said, adding that the administration is just being "practical" about the matter.

He also expressed support for a new pension obligation bond.

"Unfortunately, POB did not pass in the last election but we encourage the Legislature to deliberate on it one more time and hopefully pass it this next election," he said.

Voters in November 2010 rejected an initiative allowing the government to borrow money to pay the government's debt of over $300 million with the Fund.

The Fund's investment consultant earlier stated that a pension obligation bond is not the solution to the immediate problems of the pension plan, which is projected to last only up to three years if no new money comes in.

The government owes the Fund over $300 million in outstanding employer contributions.

EPA, CUC disagree on start of typhoon season

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. believes that its construction schedule for the installation of an oil pipeline will minimize the risk of a typhoon occurring before the end of the project.

CUC general counsel Deborah E. Fisher said that CUC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency seem to have a disagreement about when the typhoon season in the CNMI starts.

"CUC understands and appreciates the value in having the project done before the start of typhoon season and agrees this is preferable," said Fisher in CUC's letter filed Monday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

She said that CUC consulted the U.S. Navy to provide some background data on the typhoon season. Citing the Joint Typhoon Warning Center 2010 Annual Report, Fisher said the reality is that a typhoon can hit the Marianas region at any time of the year.

"There are times of the year, however, in which activity is typically higher," she said.

While CUC and EPA do not always agree, Fisher said that they have developed a very collegial working relationship. "[We] expect that to continue."

Fisher said that Phase I (replacement of the pipeline) will be done by March 24, 2010, while Phase II (demolition of the existing pipeline) will be done by April 23, 2012. Phase III (close out), she said, will be done by April 28, 2012.

"These dates represent the best possible outcome and do not have much time built in for anything unexpected," she said.

Accordingly, Fisher said, CUC asks the court to give it a three-week extension in total for the completion of the three phases.

"Therefore, Phase I would be done by April 15 at the latest, but then Phase II and Phase III would not have any extra days left for extension—and these days could be built in for any phase of the project," she explained.

EPA expressed concern last week that the new deadline of March 15, 2012, for CUC to complete the oil pipeline project is in danger again.

EPA counsel Bradley R. O'Brien disclosed that CUC is now apparently proposing that it complete the pipeline project in May 2012—at the cusp of the typhoon season.

The CUC pipeline is an 8-inch aboveground receiving pipeline that delivers fuel to CUC power plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base from the Mobil oil facility.

Public comments sought on Defense's public access plan

The Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Historic Preservation Offices, in coordination with Joint Region Marianas, are accepting public comments for the Department of Defense public access plan through Oct. 24.

Required by the Guam and CNMI Programmatic Agreement associated with the Marine Corps Realignment, this public access plan will facilitate visits to cultural and historic sites of interest and significance located on DoD properties in Guam and the CNMI.

"This is a collaborative process," said Jennifer Farley, natural resources specialist, Joint Region Marianas. "Community involvement is so crucial at this phase, as we draft a plan designed to balance access to cultural and historic sites on military installations with military operations, and improve current procedures."

Interested members of the public may download comment forms at the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific Cultural Resources Information website: http://bit.ly/NAVFAC-GuamPA, or at the Guam SHPO website: http://www.historicguam.org.

Printed forms in English, Chamorro and Carolinian are available at the following locations:

■ **GUAM**

Guam SHPO Office
Office of the Department of Chamorro Affairs
Each village Mayors' Office
Office of the Mayors Council of Guam
University of Guam Micronesia Area Research Center (MARC)

■ **CNMI**

Saipan, Tinian, and Rota SHPO Offices
Saipan, Tinian, and Rota Mayors' Offices
Office of the Mayor of the Northern Mariana Islands
Public Libraries in Saipan and Tinian
CNMI Department of Chamorro Affairs
CNMI Department of Indigenous Affairs

Deadline for Sengebau poetry contest

The 8th Annual Sengebau Poetry Competition will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2011, at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theatre.

The competition was re-scheduled to take place during CNMI Humanities Month. Participating students and schools are asked to confirm their involvement by Friday, Oct. 21, 2011.

For more information, contact Merced Ada at 235-4785 or mada@pticom.com. ***(PR)***

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public, businesses, non-government organizations, governments agencies, homeowners, and any affected individuals that the Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth Fire Division, Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation Unit has updated its fire code fees and fines and will begin the permitting process and enforcement of Public Law 11-56, "Commonwealth Fire Safety Code Act of 1988". Effective November 11, 2011.

Any or all concerned parties are to contact the respective divisions in the islands of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian and speak to any of the following individuals.

SAIPAN

Dispatch: 664-9003 Line 1, 664-9004 Line 2
Capt. Julian Tagabuel: 664-9032 Office, 898-7714 Cellular
Lt. Kevin Aldan: 664-9135 Office, 898-3414 Cellular

TINIAN

Lt. Augustine Dosalua: 433-0476 Office, 898-3461 Cellular

ROTA

Lt. Ron Ogo: 532-3736 Office, 898-3448 Cellular

FOR EMERGENCIES: DIAL 9-1-1

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Bank fees and the free market

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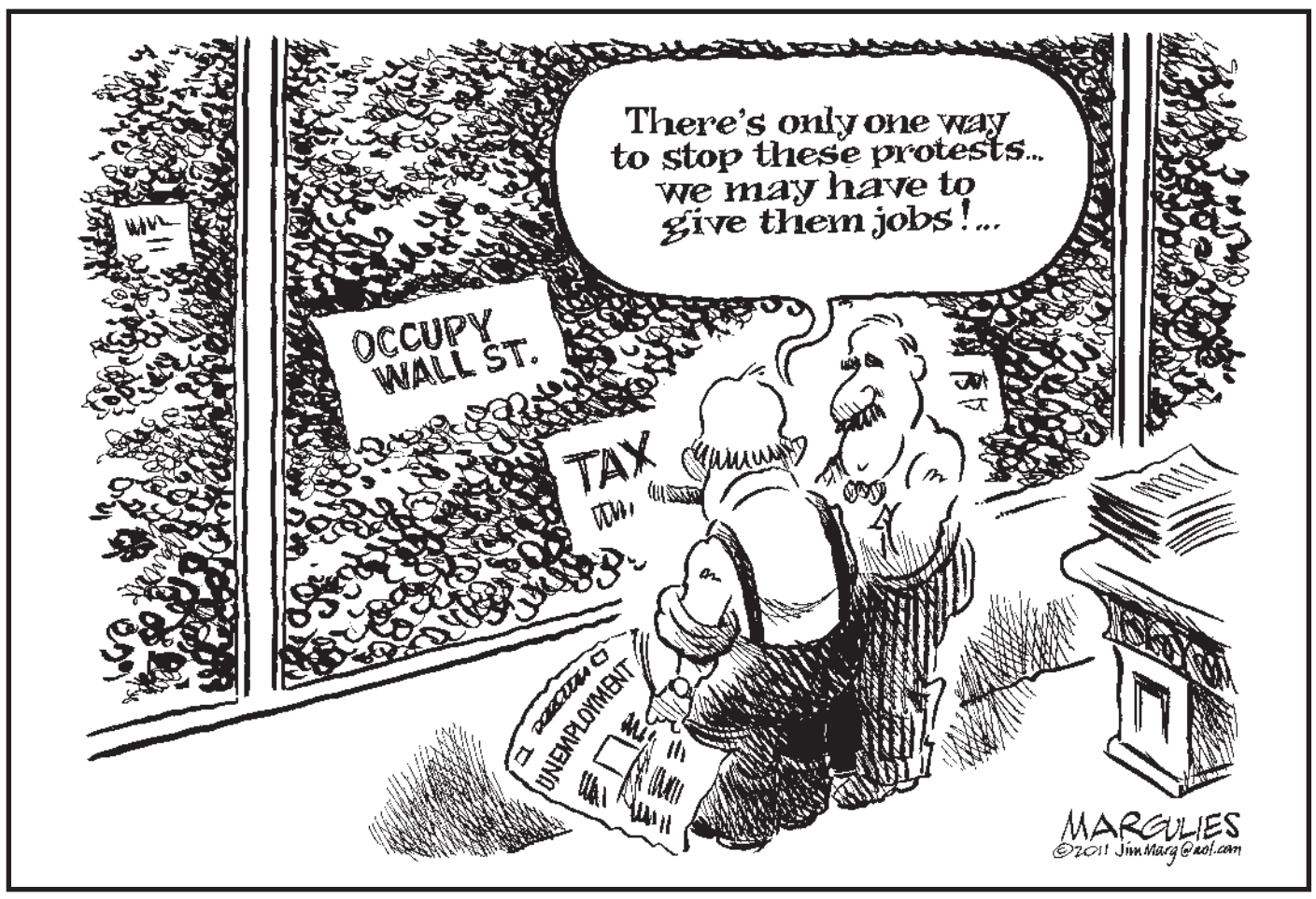
Pity the poor megabanks. One minute the federal government was pumping money onto their balance sheets to rescue them from the calamitous failure of Lehman Bros., the next it was draining billions of dollars from their revenues by slashing the fees they collected from customers for overdrafts and from retailers for debit-card transactions. Some banks are responding with new fees for services that used to be free, such as checking accounts and debit-card purchases. Bank of America, for example, plans to charge customers $5 in any month they use their debit cards to make even a single purchase.

The fees have drawn denunciations not just of the banks but of Congress and federal regulators for actually, well, regulating. According to the latter critique, Washington's crackdown on fees it didn't like simply drove banks to seek other ways to profit. But that's missing a more fundamental point. Although the new fees are about as welcome as a throbbing headache, they are far easier to spot and avoid than the ones they replaced.

Ideally, a market as competitive as financial services will reward the banks that offer consumers the most value. But as banks have come to derive more of their profits from fees rather than loans and other investments, they have become increasingly skilled at imposing fees their customers can't see or avoid. A good example is the overdraft charges that were collected from people who unwittingly overdrew their accounts with their debit cards, with no notice given by the bank. Another is the "interchange" fees that banks extracted, through Visa and MasterCard, from retailers for debit-card purchases. Retailers often passed those costs on to consumers in the form of higher prices. That's why Congress and the Federal Reserve stepped in.

The Federal Reserve cut interchange charges in half, but banks still stand to make a tidy profit from them. Thus, the new fees on debit-card users are a means to profit more off of customers who, let's face it, cost banks less than those who write dozens of checks. That's the banks' prerogative. But at least customers can see this fee, and can avoid it if they choose to. For instance, they could pay with cash, a credit card or one of several online services that transfer funds electronically.

If the market works as it should, consumers will shift their money away from banks that impose excessive fees, and banks will respond by being more open and reasonable about their charges. If not, regulators can and should continue pushing for transparency and choice.



First-person view of the Afghan collapse

By KATHY GANNON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP News Analysis

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—When I look back, the warning signs of chaos to come were there right from the start.

Two weeks into the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, I was the only Western journalist allowed into Kabul by the Taliban. I hunkered down in the basement while planes roared overheard, ever closer, shaking the whole house. Outside, tanks and trucks piled high with black-turbaned Taliban or Arab soldiers rumbled down the dark streets.

The U.S. had been reassured by its allies, known as the Northern Alliance, that their heavily armed ethnic militias would not storm Kabul when the Taliban left. So I called Abdul Rasool Sayyaf, a powerful Afghan warlord, to ask where his men would go instead.

He laughed at the naivete of the Americans. "We will all be there," he said. "No one can keep us out."

And indeed, within hours after the Taliban left, Kabul was swarming with militia. They took over houses, rampaged through the streets looking for Taliban and killed a few stragglers, throwing their bodies into a park.

It was the beginning of a pattern of deception and misunderstanding that plagued Operation Enduring Freedom, which has endured longer than virtually anyone in the U.S. had feared.

In its eagerness to oust the Taliban and get out of Afghanistan fast, the U.S. turned for help to the ethnic militias who had long jockeyed for power in Afghanistan. Once unleashed, the warlords stoked ethnic fighting, corruption and lawlessness, while the U.S. turned away. By the time the U.S. and its NATO allies looked back, it was too late.

"There was never any long-term strategy for Afghanistan," said Seema Samar, chairman of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Association, who was stripped of an earlier job as women's affairs minister after criticizing the warlords' dominance in government in 2002. "Because of the quick collapse of the Taliban, the international community was so full of themselves, their success story. They went to Iraq and handed it (Afghanistan) over to a bunch of warlords."

The U.S. argues that it had few choices at the time, because only the Northern Alliance was fighting the Taliban.

"When state institutions are weak, you should not go out of your way to alienate forces that are willing to cooperate. You don't need more enemies," said Zalmay Khalilzad, President George W. Bush's representative in Kabul following the collapse of the Taliban. "The U.S. also backed a political process...to shift power from those who had guns to those who could attract votes."

But what happened shouldn't have surprised anyone.

The ethnic militias last ruled Afghanistan from 1992 to 1996. During that time, they killed 50,000 people, mostly civilians, and laid to waste vast swaths of the capital, Kabul. I remember one day counting 100 incoming and outgoing rockets—all within two minutes.

The streets of the capital were divvied up among various leaders. The whole country was carved into fiefdoms controlled by warlords. In a report called "Blood Stained Hand," Human Rights Watch called the warlords "the world's most serious human rights offenders."

About 25,000 people were killed just from January through June 1994, according to estimates from Afghan and international human rights groups.

I remember Sayyaf and his men all too well. One day in 1993, after a particularly brutal bout of shelling in the Afghan capital, I went to an area Sayyaf's men had just left.

An old man grabbed my sleeve and threw down a shawl full of bloodied hair on my feet. Then he dragged me into a foul-smelling room to show me the bodies of five women Sayyaf's men had raped and scalped because they were of a different ethnicity, the Hazaras.

It was their hair that lay on my feet.

In its 1995 report on terrorism, the U.S. listed Sayyaf, not Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar, as a terrorist threat. It was Sayyaf and Hajji Qadir, a minister in President Hamid Karzai's first government, who welcomed Osama bin Laden to Afghanistan from Sudan in 1996. I heard accounts of the visit from Afghans who drove bin Laden from the airport and attended a lunch in his honor.

Yet after the terrorist attacks of 2001, the U.S. still joined forces with Sayyaf and other militants in the Northern Alliance. Within two months, they had routed the Taliban.

The Northern Alliance signed an international accord stating that the militias would leave Kabul before the international soldiers came. It meant nothing. Thousands of armed militiamen were still in Kabul when 5,000 soldiers from the newly formed International Security Assistance Force arrived in December.

The warlords deny the allegations of corruption and wholesale violence. They insist that they deserve a place of honor as mujahedeen, or holy soldiers, because they freed Afghanistan from the decade-long Soviet occupation in 1989.

But from the outset, they weakened President Hamid Karzai and sent some of his fellow ethnic Pashtuns fleeing back to the Taliban. Karzai was the only leader without a militia, which left Pashtuns unprotected and vulnerable to the new minority ethnic rulers.

A deputy police chief from southern Zabul province told me that in 2002, he sent 2,000 young Pashtuns to Kabul to join the Afghan national army and police. But they were humiliated and harassed by militiamen, and all but four joined the Taliban instead.

The warlords also took over the U.S.-supervised loya jirgas, or grand councils, set up to craft a constitution. They used intimidation and violence to garner votes in the 2010 elections, according to monitors for Afghanistan's human rights commission.

And they grabbed the security business, where they made a fortune. Today, newly rich warlords-cum-ministers live in grotesquely

See FIRST-PERSON on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The 100 Percent BizGrowth Challenge: Grow 100 percent in 100 days

About three months ago, I started compiling some of my best articles into a book called *"Your BizGrowth Challenge: Solutions to Move Your Business to the Next Level of Growth."* It includes numerous stories of how businesses have overcome challenges, and the book uses the 7 Strategic Dimensions of every organization as a framework. Each of the stories and concepts are designed to help you and your staff to discover solutions to specific challenges in each of the dimensions and realize massive breakthroughs, as well as incremental improvements.

The 7 Strategic Dimensions identifies important areas to maintain a balanced business, and they include: 1) How to remain innovative and plan for growth, 2) train employees and offer opportunities for professional development, 3) develop systems for smooth operations, 4) manage stakeholder relationships, 5) identify appealing products and develop effective marketing strategies, 6) choose measurable metrics, and manage costs, and 7) develop a customer-focused culture that creates loyal customers and dedicated employees. In the end; however, the results of all those activities must produce a profit on the bottom line so your business can continue to grow and remain viable.

To prove the viability of the concepts, I am issuing a challenge to invite a few businesses to participate in what I'm calling the 100 Percent BizGrowth Challenge. The goal of this challenge is to grow participating businesses by 100 percent in sales or profits in 100 days. Many of the principles have been proven in the field with clients I've worked with over the last 20 years, but I haven't combined all of them into a comprehensive program that specifically identifies the greatest opportunities for growth and creates a plan to achieve rapid growth.

This may sound ambitious, especially in this economic climate; however, let me demonstrate how small changes in just a few key areas could dramatically change your bottom line. If a business is operating with a 10 percent return on sales, you only need to improve 3 percent in the next 100 days in five key areas to double your profits.

		+/-	Change
Prospects Who Visit	2,000	+3%	2,060
x 50% Conversion	1,000	+3%	1,092
x Average Purchase	$100	+3%	$103
x Return Purchases	10	+3%	10.3
= Sales	$1,000,000	+15.8% Increase	$1,158,291
- Expenses 50% VC, $400K FC	$900,000	-3% Variable Cost	$955,980
= Profit	$100,000	+114% Increase	$213,894

Let me go through this step-by-step to demonstrate how this can be accomplished in the five areas. If you have: 1) 2,000 prospects who visit your business in a month (about 70/day), and 2) 50 percent of them become customers (1,000), 3) who make an average purchase of $100, and 4) return to your business 10 times in a period of time, your sales would be $1,000,000; 5) subtracting variable costs (VC) of 50 percent and $400,000 in fixed costs (FC) would produce $100,000 (I'll leave taxes out to simplify the example).

A 3-percent improvement in just one area, the average purchase amount ($103), will increase your sales by 3 percent to $1,030,000, without doing anything else in the other areas. When you subtract your variable costs (VC) of 50 percent of gross sales, and $400,000 in fixed costs (FC), the result is a 15-percent increase in profit. The percentage will be more or less depending on your profit margin. The main point is that it doesn't take much to increase your profits with minor improvement in just one of the three areas. How difficult is it for you to increase the average purchase amount by just 3 percent? You can provide better customer service, offer an extended warranty, up-sell, bundle products together, offer a deluxe alternative, or dozens of other methods.

Let's look at what happens if you follow a plan, that you'll follow as part of the 100 Percent BizGrowth Challenge, to improve in all five areas by just 3 percent. These aren't huge jumps in the number of new customers, their average purchase amount, or the number of times that they return. Your sales would increase by 15.8 percent. In addition, if you make a 3-percent improvement in your variable costs by examining all the waste and inefficiencies within your business, this would produce an additional $113,894 to the bottom line. The combined results in this example would more than double your profits. My goal is to help you realize at least a 3- to 6-percent improvement in each of the areas in the next 100 days, and much larger jumps in some of the areas by implementing a strategy and following-through on a plan that is tailored to your business.

To break this down to the ridiculous, the plan requires you to just realize a 1- to 2-percent improvement per month in five key areas, and I'll show you how it can easily be achieved if you know what to work on. Again, the results you'll realize will be different because of the differing variable but it illustrates how incremental improvements can compound over time in key areas to produce impressive results.

By RIK VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik coaches businesses through their most challenging transition points to develop consistently profitable businesses that operate without them. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at http://rikv.blogspot.com.

If you would like to participate in the 100 Percent BizGrowth Challenge, I am only accepting 10 businesses to work closely with over the next 100 days. Anyone is invited to attend a free introduction session where you'll learn the almost unfair advantage your business could achieve using simple, yet powerful concepts. From the responses I'll select those that I'll work closely with during the 100 days on a risk-free basis.

One of my main purposes is to demonstrate how any startup or established business can dramatically increase their sales and profits in a relatively short time by applying simple concepts in the five key areas. I will only work with individuals who are open to new ideas, willing to follow a plan, and who agree to provide a testimonial for my book at the end of the 100 days, if they're satisfied with their results. If you would like to learn more or participate with me in this challenge, contact me at RikVillegas@gmail.com.

Letter to the Editor

The time to act is now

I have called for action many times in the past, and have had very little, if any, success. However, with recent events in the CNMI and the world, I cannot afford to remain silent any longer.

We can't just sit back and "see what will happen"; we need to be the change we wish to see in our country and in our world. We need to take action *now* or forever be victims of the status quo and degrading quality of life worldwide. Join the rest of the world, CNMI. It is high time we realize that we are part of the global community.

There are no excuses left. Either you join the revolt taking place on Wall Street and in thousands of cities across the world, or you stand on the wrong side of history. Either you obstruct, in the only form left to us, which is civil disobedience, the plundering by the criminal politicians on Capitol Hill and accelerated destruction of the socioeconomic system that sustains our islands, or remain the passive enabler of a monstrous evil. Either you taste, feel and smell the intoxication of freedom and revolt, or sink into the miasma of despair and apathy. Either you are a rebel fighting for freedom from the status quo or a slave to it.

This is your calling, people of the CNMI. The time is now. "If not now, when? If not us, who?" No one is going to come in and save us from our problems, because we are the cause of the very problems that we face. We must undergo a paradigm shift if anything is to change for the better in the Marianas. This is that shift. On Oct. 15, we must *unite* against the system that has brought our country to the very situation that it is in today.

You have seen it yourself: politicians going on junkets and enjoying fine dining and luxury accommodations on the taxpayer's dime, legislators ignoring the will of the people and pushing through bills to benefit the few elite on island, legislators introducing nonsense bills that serve no purpose in the improvement of the CNMI as a whole. These are just a few examples of the corruption in our government.

When will you remember that they work for us? When will you remember all the promises they made when they were asking for our vote; the very promises that to this day are still unfulfilled? It seems that along with our elected officials, we, too, have forgotten that they exist to serve us, the people of the CNMI. It is time to take the power back!

When will you say enough is enough!? This is the time to do so. You are not alone. We are not alone. On this day, we stand tall with our brothers and sisters across the globe in fighting against government and corporate corruption. The whole world is watching, CNMI. Do not be left behind in this global movement. You want international exposure? This is it.

Rally in Susupe at the Civic Center on the morning of Oct. 15, 2011. View the event information and RSVP at:

http://tinyurl.com/CNMIdor

Kelvin Rodeo
Glendale, CA

FIRST-PERSON

From Page 10

ornate houses three or four stories high in the Sherpur neighborhood of Kabul, decorated with marble pillars and hand-carved marble balconies.

Warlords have now infiltrated every level of a government funded by the U.S.—as ministers, governors and police chiefs. The first vice president of Afghanistan is Mohammad Qasim Fahim, once commander of the Northern Alliance. The police chief and a key U.S. ally in southern Kandahar is Abdul Razik, a former warlord suspected of large-scale drug dealing.

The deputy defense minister at one point was the notoriously brutal Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum. An official at the Kandahar Air Field, home to tens of thousands of U.S. and NATO troops, is self-declared Maj. Gen. Abdul Razik Sherzai, another Afghan kingpin.

There are many more—including Sayyaf, after whom the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in the Philippines is named. Sayyaf is now a member of parliament in Afghanistan, where he has pressed legislation to bar war crimes trials for militia leaders.

Warlords have also threatened female colleagues who have sought their expulsion from the government. I remember chasing one female member of Parliament who went into hiding after being threatened by Fahim. She fled in the middle of the night, just minutes before half a dozen of his bodyguards showed up at her front door.

The U.S. partnership with such warlords and a corrupt government led to deep resentment, especially among Pashtuns. And the Taliban were left alone to regroup and strengthen in Pakistan.

When President Barack Obama refocused the U.S. military away from Iraq and back on Afghanistan in 2009, there was little the U.S. could do. In some areas, the Taliban had set up shadow governments that dispensed quick justice. The Afghan police and government were seen by most Afghans as corrupt and lawless. And ordinary people saw little change in their lives from the billions of dollars of aid that had come to their country.

The training of the Afghan national army and police has stepped up, because they will have to take over security of the country. But even NATO trainers say privately they don't think it can be done. Most of the Afghan forces still have ethnic loyalties, and there isn't enough time or resources to build a sense of national purpose, they say.

The 2014 target for U.S. forces to leave has also speeded up peace talks between the U.S. and the Taliban. Afghans are no longer sure who is on whose side, or whether peace in their country is even possible.

At this stage it appears that the U.S. will leave behind a country with a bleak future, after a decade of squandered opportunities by Afghans and Americans alike. One fear is that at best, a corrupt government ridden with warlords will make a devil's deal with the Taliban, bringing further violence and repression to a country that has known little else for decades.

And at worst, the country will slip into another civil war.

Kathy Gannon is the special Associated Press regional correspondent for Afghanistan and Pakistan. She has covered Afghanistan for two decades. She can be reached on www.twitter.com/kathygannon.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Northeast winds near 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

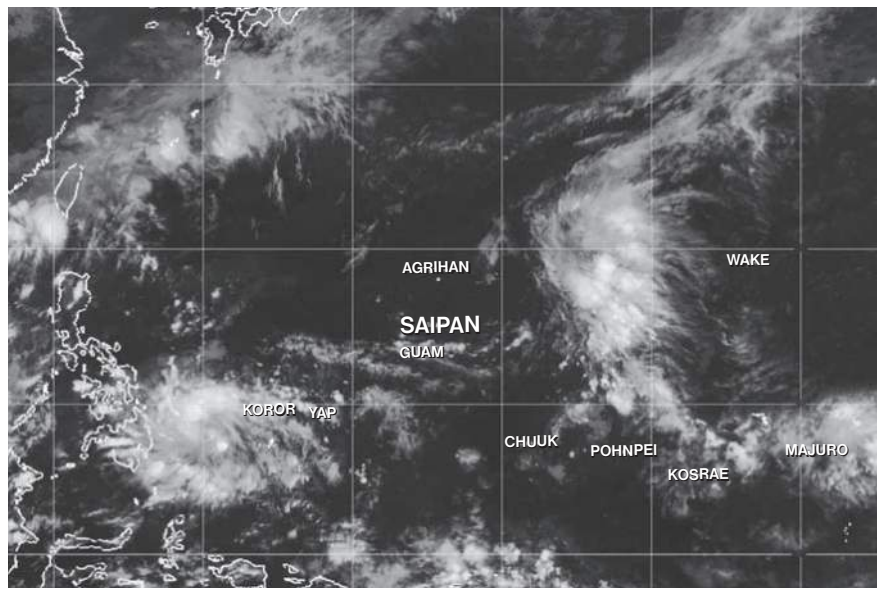
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲82	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲65	▼54
Beijing	Showers	▲73	▼51
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲83	▼78
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼76
London	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼52
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲93	▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲71	▼51
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼73
New York	Showers	▲62	▼60
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼64
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲65	▼46
Pusan	Sunny	▲76	▼64
Rome	Sunny	▲82	▼58
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼46
San Francisco	Sunny	▲76	▼60
Seoul	Sunny	▲74	▼59
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼63
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲71	▼64

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends along 10N to end northeast of Yap near 11N139E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Yap and Koror west of a line from EQ141E to 11N139E. A weak tropical disturbance north of Chuuk is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between the Marianas and Chuuk within 150 miles of a line from 9N148E to 14N150E and just north of Pohnpei between 7N and 14N from 154E to 161E. An upper-level low is centered over the far northern CNMI near 19N146E and a surface trough near the Marianas extends northward from 14N146E to beyond 25N at 148E. These features are combining to trigger scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well northeast of the Marianas within 120 miles of a line from 21N152E to 25N152E and near Guam within 40 miles of a line from 14N141E to 13N146E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Majuro and south of Kwajalein between 4N and 8N from 166E to 178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:13 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:37 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
7:45 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	5:57 PM
Sunday	6:09 AM	5:57 PM
Monday	6:09 AM	5:56 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:33 PM	6:45 AM
Friday	7:15 PM	7:34 AM
Saturday	8:00 PM	8:24 AM
Sunday	8:47 PM	9:15 AM
Monday	9:38 PM	10:05 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 5, 2011

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:20am	2:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:25am	5:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05070	4:25am	5:15am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05064	4:25am	6:00am	1, 5 via ROP
5K384	7:20am	8:10am	2, 6
C05068	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C05068	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K386	5:50pm	6:40pm	3, 4, 7
C05078	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
5K382	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
C05072	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)			
5K212	8:20am	10:55am	4, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:05am	8:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C05076/183	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C05072/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
5K168	8:15am	11:25pm	1, 5
C05076/179	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:30am	6:00am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:20am	3:55am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:20am	3:55am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
5K387	6:30am	7:20am	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
C05071	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
5K383	6:30pm	7:20pm	2, 6
C05079	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN			
5K213	11:55am	4:25pm	4, 7
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:00pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:35pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:35pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0192/5071	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C05071	10:00pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
PR110/C05071	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/5071	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0184/5071	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0184/5071	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	1:00pm	8:05pm	1, 5
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

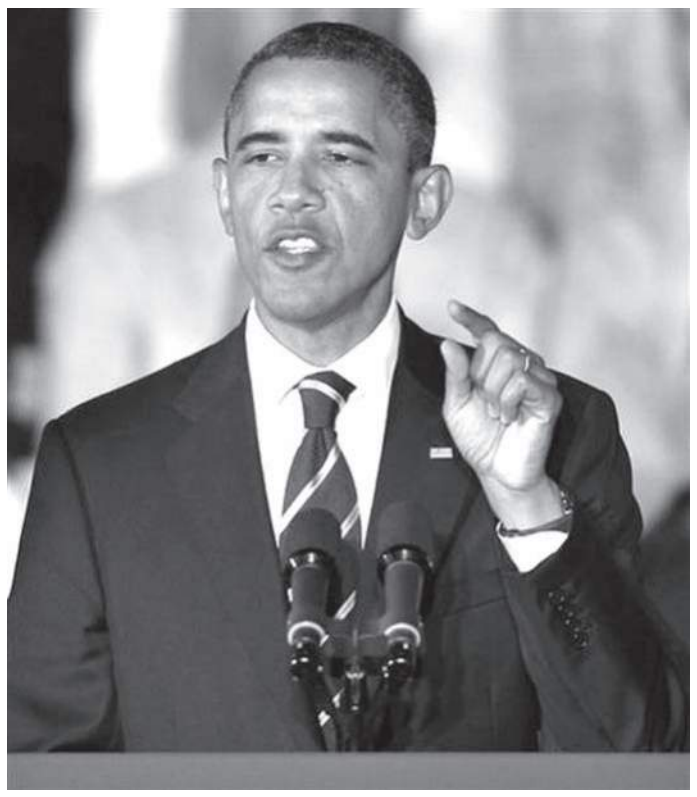
Business

GOP senators vote to defeat Obama's jobs bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—United against Barack Obama, Senate Republicans voted Tuesday night to kill the jobs package the president had spent weeks campaigning for across the country, a stinging loss at the hands of lawmakers opposed to stimulus-style spending and a tax increase on the very wealthy.

The $447 billion plan died on a 50-49 tally that garnered a majority of the 100-member Senate but fell well short of the 60 votes needed to keep the bill alive. The tally had been 51-48, but Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., switched his vote to "nay" so that he could force a future revote. The demise of Obama's jobs package was expected, despite his campaign-style efforts to swing the public behind it. The White House and leaders in Congress were already moving on to alternative ways to address the nation's painful 9.1 percent unemployment, including breaking the legislation into smaller, more digestible pieces and approving long-stalled trade bills.

"Tonight's vote is by no means the end of this fight," Obama said in a statement after the vote. "Because with so many Americans out of work and so many families struggling, we can't take `no' for an answer."



AP

President Barack Obama gestures while speaking about jobs, Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2011, at the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local No. 5 Training Center in Pittsburgh.

The White House appears most confident that it will be able to continue a 2-percentage-point Social Security payroll tax cut through 2012 and to extend emergency unemployment benefits to millions of people—if only because, in the White House view, Republicans won't want to accept the political harm of letting those provisions expire.

White House officials are also hopeful of ultimately garnering votes for the approval of infrastructure spending and tax credits for businesses that hire unemployed veterans.

"Now it's time for both parties to work together and find common ground on removing government barriers to private-sector job growth," House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said after the vote.

Democrats Ben Nelson of Nebraska and Jon Tester of Montana—both up for re-election next year in states where Obama figures to lose—broke with their party on Tuesday night's vote. Every Republican present opposed the plan.

Earlier in the day, Obama capped his weekslong campaign for the measure in an appearance typical of the effort—a tough-talking speech in a swing state crucial to his re-election. Like earlier appearances, it seemed aimed more at rallying his core political supporters heading into the election than changing minds on Capitol Hill.

"Any senator who votes no should have to look you in the eye and tell you what exactly they're opposed to," Obama said to a union audience in Pittsburgh. "I think they'll have a hard time explaining why they voted no on this bill—other than the fact that I proposed it."

Democrats were not wholly united behind the measure. In addition to Nelson and Tester, Sens. Jim Webb, D-Va., Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Joe Lieberman, a Connecticut independent who aligns with Democrats, said they oppose the underlying measure despite voting to choke off the filibuster.

Obama's plan would combine Social Security payroll tax cuts for workers and businesses and other tax relief totaling about $270 billion with $175 billion in new spending on roads, school repairs and other infrastructure, as well as unemployment assistance and help to local governments to avoid layoffs of teachers, firefighters and police officers.

Obama said that the plan—more than half the size of his 2009 economic stimulus measure—would be an insurance policy against a double-dip recession and that continued economic intervention was essential given slower-than-hoped job growth.

"Right now, our economy needs a jolt," Obama said. "Right now."

Unlike the 2009 legislation, the current plan would be paid for with a 5.6 percent surcharge on income exceeding $1 million. That would be expected to raise about $450 billion over the coming decade.

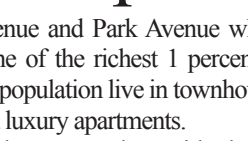
Taxing millionaires

Critics say President Barack Obama's proposal to pay for his jobs plan with a 5.6 percent surcharge on income exceeding $1 million is unfair. But high-income taxpayers have a large share of national income and have been paying lower taxes.

Millionaires account for less than 0.3 percent of taxable returns …

Number of taxable returns, 2009

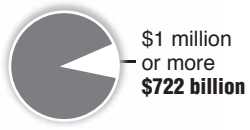
Total **81.9 million**



… but more than 10 percent of total adjusted gross income …

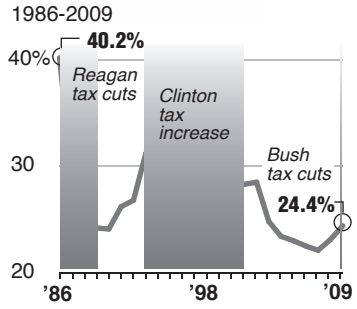
Adjusted gross income, 2009

Total **$6.8 trillion**



… and their total income tax as a share of AGI has been declining

1986-2009



© 2011 MCT
Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service
Graphic: Pat Carr

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Slovakian politicians work toward OK of bailout

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (AP)—Slovakia's Parliament rejected a key euro bailout bill Tuesday, threatening Europe-wide efforts to ease a debt crisis that is threatening the global economy. The vote triggered the collapse of the government, but the outgoing prime minister and her main opponent both said they would now work to approve the bill quickly. The agreement to talk came shortly after Parliament voted against an expanded euro bailout fund—a vote that Prime Minister Iveta Radicova had tied to a confidence measure. Parliament is scheduled to convene again Thursday, but it is not clear when another vote will be held. The eyes of officials and investors around the world are on the small central European country because expanding the fund requires the approval of all 17 countries that use the euro currency. Sixteen countries have already approved, and now Slovakia, with a population of just 5.5 million people, holds in its hands the fate the financial plans of the wider 17-nation eurozone and its 332 million citizens—and by extension, the global economy.

Unauthorized access hits Sony PlayStation accounts

TOKYO (AP)—Sony said Wednesday it has detected a large number of unauthorized attempts to access user accounts on its PlayStation Network and other online entertainment services. The Tokyo-based company temporarily locked about 93,000 accounts whose IDs and passwords were successfully verified by the intruders. Sony has sent email notifications and password reset procedures to affected customers on the PlayStation Network, Sony Entertainment Network and Sony Online Entertainment services. Sony said credit card numbers linked to the compromised accounts are not at risk. It has "taken steps to mitigate the activity" and is investigating any wrongful use of the accounts themselves.

Protesters march past millionaires' NYC homes

NEW YORK (AP)—Now it's personal: Hundreds of anti-Wall Street protesters held a "Millionaires March" on Tuesday past the homes of some of the wealthiest executives in America, stopping to jeer "Tax the rich!" and "Where's my bailout?"

Walking two-by-two on the sidewalk because they had no march permit and didn't want to be charged with blocking traffic, members of the Occupy Wall Street movement and other groups made their way up Manhattan's East Side, along streets like Fifth Avenue and Park Avenue where some of the richest 1 percent of the population live in townhouses and luxury apartments.

They paused outside buildings where media mogul Rupert Murdoch, banker Jamie Dimon and oil tycoon David Koch have homes, and decried the impending expiration of New York's 2 percent "millionaires' tax" in December.

"I have nothing against these people personally. I just think they should pay their fair share of taxes," said Michael Pollack, an office worker in a law firm. He held up a sign with a saying attributed to department store founder Edward Filene, "Why shouldn't the American people take half my money from me? I took all of it from them."

Pollack said: "It's time for a new New Deal."

For the past 3 1/2 weeks, protesters have besieged a park in lower Manhattan near Wall Street, denouncing corporate greed and the gap between rich and poor. The uptown march marked the first time the Occupy Wall Street movement has identified specific people as being part of the 1 percent the demonstrators say are getting rich at the expense of the rest of America.

When the march reached Park Avenue and East 93rd Street, protesters stopped in front of a building where they said Dimon, JPMorgan Chase's chairman and CEO, has an apartment. Marchers screamed, "Where's our bailout?" and "How do we end this deficit? End the war, tax the rich!"

Senate passes bill to sanction China over currency

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate voted Tuesday to threaten China with higher tariffs on Chinese products made cheap through an artificially undervalued currency, which lawmakers blame for destroying American jobs. The House, though, is unlikely to take up the bill, which some American businesses warn could trigger a trade war.

The 63-35 vote showed a broad bipartisan consensus that it is time to end diplomatic niceties with China and confront it over its aggressive trade policies.

"There are always people who don't want to stand up to China and I think they are, frankly, undercutting our ability to stop the hemorrhaging in our manufacturing jobs," said Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio.

Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said the bill "is an important step towards defending American values, confronting China's abusive practices and preventing the liquidation of American manufacturing."

Still, the bill could die in the House, where a companion measure has the sponsorship of more than half the members but lacks the support of the GOP leadership.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, like the many large multinational companies that oppose the legislation, has said it would be dangerous to dictate another country's currency policies, and he can prevent the bill from ever being considered.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
11,416.30	1,195.54	2,583.03
-16.88	+0.65	+16.98
-0.15%	+0.05%	+0.66%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.0059	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7823	Philippine Peso	43.53
British Pound	0.6415	Indian Rupee	49.2337	Singapore Dollar	1.2835
Canadian Dollar	1.0262	Indonesian Rupiah	8962.5	South Korean Won	1166.81
Chinese Yuan	6.3791	Japanese Yen	76.712	Swiss Franc	0.9089
Euro	0.7332	Malaysian Ringgit	3.149	Taiwan Dollar	30.4288
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2808	Thailand Baht	30.97

Nation

US ties Iran to plot to assassinate Saudi diplomat

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration accused Iranian government agents Tuesday of plotting to assassinate the Saudi ambassador in the United States and immediately used the thwarted plot to ratchet up sanctions and recruit international allies to try to further isolate Tehran.

Two men, including a member of Iran's special foreign actions unit known as the Quds Force, were charged in New York federal court with conspiring to kill the Saudi diplomat, Adel Al-Jubeir. Justice Department officials say the men tried to hire a purported member of a Mexican drug cartel to carry out the assassination with a bomb attack while Al-Jubeir dined at his favorite restaurant.

■■■

WASHINGTON (AP)—The State Department is warning Americans around the world of the potential for terrorist attacks against U.S. interests following the exposure of an alleged Iranian plot to assassinate Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States.

In a new worldwide travel alert issued late Tuesday, the department said the foiled scheme could be sign that Iran has adopted a "more aggressive focus" on terrorist activity. It said Iranian-sponsored attacks could include strikes in the United States, where the alleged plot against the Saudi envoy was supposed to have taken place, as well as other countries.

"The Department of State alerts U.S. citizens of the potential for anti-U.S. actions following the disruption of a plot, linked to Iran, to commit a significant terrorist act in the United States," it said in the warning that expires on Jan. 11, 2012.

■■■

"The idea that they would attempt to go to a Mexican drug cartel to solicit murder-for-hire to kill the Saudi ambassador, nobody could make that up, right?" Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Clinton was blunt in saying the United States would use the case as leverage with other countries that have been reluctant to apply harsh sanctions or penalties against Iran. Clinton said she and President Barack Obama called world leaders to tell them of the developments.

"This really, in the minds of many diplomats and government officials, crosses a line that Iran needs to be held to account for," Clinton said. She said she and Obama want to "enlist more countries in working together against what is becoming a clearer and clearer threat" from Iran.

The U.S. criminal complaint said the Iranian plotters hired a would-be assassin in Mexico who was a paid informant for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and told U.S. authorities all about their plot, which they code-named "Chevrolet."

FBI Director Robert Mueller said many lives could have been lost. But Preet Bharara, the U.S. attorney in Manhattan, said no explosives were actually placed and no one was in any danger because of the informant's cooperation with authorities.

Attorney General Eric Holder, appearing at a news conference with Mueller and Bharara, declared, "The United States is committed to holding Iran responsible for its actions."

Shortly afterward, the Treasury Department announced economic penalties against Arbabsiar and four Quds Force officers it says were involved.

Asked whether the plot was blessed by the very top echelons of the Iranian government, Holder said the Justice Department was not making that accusation. But he said the conspiracy was conceived, sponsored and directed from Tehran. The U.S. describes the Quds Force as Iran's primary foreign action arm for supporting terrorists and extremists around the world.

The White House said Obama told al-Jubeir in a phone call that the foiled plot to assassinate him is a "flagrant" violation of U.S. and international law. Obama also told al-Jubeir he is committed to ensuring the security of diplomats in the United States, the White House said, and met with his national security team to thank them for disrupting the plot.

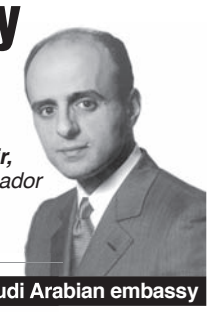
The Obama administration has often said that no option is off the table with Iran, a position that a U.S. official said had not changed Tuesday. But the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the policy publicly, said the emphasis now is on increasing diplomatic and economic pressure on Iran.

The alleged target was Al-Jubeir, a commoner educated at University of North Texas and Georgetown who was foreign affairs adviser to Saudi King Abdullah when he was crown prince. A month after the 2001 attacks, in which 15 of the 19 Arab hijackers were from Saudi Arabia, Abdullah sent al-Jubeir to the United States to rebuild Saudi Arabia's image in the United States. He was appointed ambassador in 2007.

Shiite Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia are the Mideast's two most powerful countries and have long vied for power and influence across the region. Saudi Arabia and other countries like Bahrain have accused Iran of trying to create dissent in their countries this year, during democracy movements across the region.

Plot to kill Saudi envoy

U.S. officials said an Iranian-backed plot to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to the United States was disrupted by the FBI and DEA.



The target

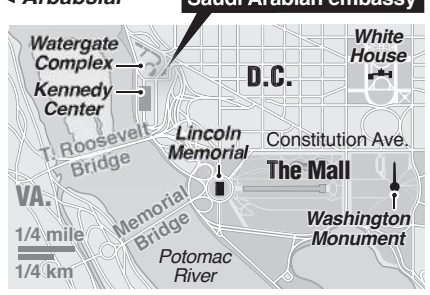
Adel-Al-Jubeir, *Saudi Ambassador to the United States*

The suspects

Manssoor Arbabsiar
Naturalized U.S. citizen, arrested Sept. 29; has admitted role in plot

Ali Gholam Shakuri
Whereabouts unknown

The suspects have ties to the **Qud's Force**, part of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard



The plot

May 24 In Mexico, Arbabsiar meets with U.S. informant posing as member of drug cartel; asks about explosives; says he wants to attack a Saudi embassy

June 2 Arbabsiar returns to Mexico for more meetings; says his associates in Iran had discussed "violent missions" including murder of Saudi ambassador to U.S.

July 14 Informant tells Arbabsiar price for carrying out murder plot is $1.5 million; would use four men; days later, informant says a worker has done surveillance of ambassador in Washington; they discuss bombing restaurant frequented by envoy

Aug. 1, Aug. 9 Arbabsiar gets okay from codefendant Gholam Shakuri to wire $100,000 as down payment for assassination

Sept. 28 Arbabsiar flies to Mexico, but is denied entry, placed on return flight; he is arrested the next day on layover in New York City

Oct. 4-5 In custody, Arbabsiar makes phone calls to co-plotter Shakuri who said plot should move forward as quickly as possible

Other suspected Quds activity

- Trying to influence politics in Afghanistan and Iraq
- Giving aid to anti-Western insurgents in Iraq, including rebel Shiite Muqtada al Sadr
- Supporting Hezbollah in 2007 fighting with Israel

Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau, Reuters, AP, GlobalSecurity.org, Nueces County Texas Sheriff's Dept., Saudi embassy, U.S. Justice Dept.
Graphic: Robert Dorrell, Judy Treible

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Christie backs Romney for GOP presidential nod

AP

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, left, accompanied by Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, answers a reporter's question during news conference in Lebanon, NH., Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2011, where he announced his endorsement of Romney.

LEBANON, N.H. (AP)—New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie—who spurned repeated calls to run for president himself—endorsed Mitt Romney for the GOP presidential nomination Tuesday, sending a signal to the skeptical GOP establishment to fall in line behind the former Massachusetts governor.

"I'm here in New Hampshire for one simple reason: America cannot survive another four years of Barack Obama and Mitt Romney's the man to lead America and we need him now," Christie said, standing alongside Romney.

The endorsement was a surprise, coming just hours before a GOP presidential debate and just a week after the pugnacious, budget-cutting Christie disappointed party elders and top GOP donors when he decided last week that he wouldn't run for president in 2012.

In the intervening days, Romney and his chief rival, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, have been scrambling to win support from the donors and party elders who had been sitting on the sidelines and waiting for Christie to decide.

It's unclear just how much impact—if any—the endorsement will have with voters less than three months before the primary voting season begins and as Romney tries to position himself as the party's inevitable nominee.

Voters tend to make up their own minds about who to support.

But Christie's endorsement could influence groups Romney has struggled to win over—a core segment of the GOP establishment that isn't enthused by him, and the tea party, many of whom view him as insincere on issues they hold dear.

In a hastily arranged news conference on the debate sidelines, Christie said the former Massachusetts governor could beat Obama and has the right mix of private sector and government experience to be president.

Christie also addressed what's perhaps Romney's biggest vulnerability—the Massachusetts health care measure that he signed into law and that was a model for Obama's nationwide measure that conservatives detest.

The New Jersey governor said it was "completely intellectually dishonest" to link Romney's measure with Obama's. And Christie added of Romney: "I'm proud of him for doing what he thought was right" on health care in Massachusetts.

Romney, in turn, called Christie a "hero" because of his record of cutting government spending as governor of New Jersey.

ACROSS THE NATION

Pair charged in murder spree to be sent to Wash.

SEATTLE (AP)—A boyfriend-and-girlfriend duo suspected in a murder spree that left four people dead in three Western states are expected to be returned to Washington state within a month to face charges that could bring the death penalty. David "Joey" Pedersen and his girlfriend, Holly Grigsby, waived their right to an extradition hearing during a brief court appearance Tuesday in Yuba County, north of Sacramento, where they were arrested last week. The pair, who have expressed white supremacist beliefs, are suspected of killing his father, David "Red" Pedersen, 56, and his wife Leslie, 69, about Sept. 26 in Everett, Wash., and, later, two other people, including a 19-year-old man they believed was Jewish.

Slain woman's family haunted by ride with stranger

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Five days after someone killed his pregnant sister-in-law and sliced the fetus from her womb, Josue Garcia said Tuesday his family remains haunted by a single question: Why would Maritza Ramirez-Cruz get into the car of a woman she didn't know? Investigators say Ramirez-Cruz was the victim of a woman who was desperate to give her boyfriend a son but was unable to conceive. Annette Morales-Rodriguez, 33, is accused of luring the young Puerto Rican immigrant into her car, taking her home, beating her with a baseball bat and cutting her full-term fetus from her womb. The mother and baby both died. "If she doesn't know you she won't get in your car," Garcia told The Associated Press. "How did (the suspect) get her into the car? That's what we want to know."

Asia

China slams US currency bill as threat to trade

BEIJING (AP)—China criticized an American currency bill as a threat to a shaky global economic recovery and warned Wednesday that trade ties will be "severely damaged" if it becomes law.

Beijing rejected the measure passed Tuesday by the Senate as a form of damaging protectionism at a time when other nations are trying to sustain free trade. The bill would allow Washington to raise tariffs on Chinese imports that critics say are unfairly cheap due to Beijing's exchange-rate controls and are destroying U.S. jobs.

"It is completely harmful and unbeneficial," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu in a statement. Ma said it would do nothing to reduce U.S. unemployment and would disrupt global efforts to revive economic growth.

Tuesday's 63-35 Senate vote showed a bipartisan consensus in favor of tougher action against Beijing after years of diplomatic pressure and a gradual rise in China's currency, the yuan, that critics say is inadequate.

Still, the bill is unlikely to become law because it lacks the support of the majority Republican leadership in the lower House of Representatives, who are reluctant to take up the measure. The White House and President Barack Obama have not come out against the bill but have shown they are uncomfortable with it.

U.S. manufacturers complain that Beijing's controls keep the yuan undervalued by up to 40 percent. They say that gives China's exporters an unfair price advantage and hurts foreign competitors, eroding American employment. The currency bill's supporters say it would support creation of 1 million jobs in the United States.

American critics of the bill have warned Beijing might retaliate, hurting U.S. companies in China's relatively robust markets, which are a rare bright spot for exporters amid weak demand elsewhere.

If it becomes law, "Sino-U.S. economic and trade relations will inevitable be severely damaged," Commerce Ministry spokesman Shen Dayang said in a statement.

Some opponents of the measure argue that currency sanctions would do little to help the U.S. job market because Chinese goods would simply be replaced by goods from other low-wage countries such as Vietnam and Bangladesh.

Ma, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said the measure violates World Trade Organization rules.

"It not only cannot solve the problems in the U.S. economy or unemployment, but will seriously impede Sino-U.S. economic and trade ties and impede the joint efforts that China, the U.S. and the international community have made to enable a strong recovery and the growth of the global economy," Ma said.

Group: PH army mislabeled child soldiers

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A U.S.-based human rights group accused the Philippine army Wednesday of falsely labeling some children it had taken into custody as communist child soldiers.

The military had reported earlier that 215 New People's Army child soldiers surrendered, 121 were captured and 12 were killed between January 1999 and January this year.

Human Rights Watch said in a report that at least 12 children in six cases had been falsely labeled child soldiers by the military. It said the army made the claims to score propaganda points against the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army, its armed wing. The rebels have been battling the government for decades.

The rights group urged the government to immediately stop fabricating stories of child soldiers.

"The army is concocting stories of rebel child soldiers that are putting children at risk for propaganda purposes," Elaine Pearson, Human Rights Watch's Asia director, said in a statement.

Army spokesman Maj. Harold Cabunoc denied the accusation and said that the rebels may have fed "half-truths" to the rights group.

The rights group said that in one case, a 10-year-old boy was allegedly manhandled by soldiers, who tied his hands. According to the report, the boy claimed the soldiers were trying to force him to admit that he and two other boys had planted a bomb. One of the other boys said the soldiers threatened to kill his father if he did not identify rebels in their area, the report said.

In another case, a 14-year-old boy who was visiting his hometown in Northern Samar province for a village fiesta was taken into custody by soldiers who publicly declared him and his older sister as child warriors. The social welfare department, however, said there was no evidence that the siblings were involved with the rebels, the report said.

"The use of child soldiers in the Philippines is a matter of grave concern that the government should be taking seriously," Pearson said. "But fabricating claims that children are involved undermines efforts to address genuine child soldier recruitment while putting other children in danger."

Cabunoc said that the "accusations have no basis."

"The real issue really is who is using child soldiers? It is not the armed forces, but the (rebels)," he said.

The rebels have been fighting the government for more than four decades. Norway has brokered peace talks on economic, social, political and electoral reforms to try to end the conflict.

AP

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell, foreground, reaches out with his hand near Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai before a meeting at the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing, China, Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2011.

Myanmar to give amnesty to 6,300 prisoners

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's newly elected civilian government was poised Wednesday to release more than 6,300 prisoners in an amnesty that could help patch up the country's human rights record and normalize relations with Western nations. It was widely expected that many of the country's estimated 2,000 political prisoners would be among those freed. The amnesty announcement broadcast Tuesday did not supply names, but relatives said those on this list included one of the most prominent detainees—comedian and activist Zarganar, who is serving a 35-year sentence in Myitkyina prison in northernmost Kachin State.

Zarganar was detained in 2008 after giving interviews to foreign media criticizing the nation's former military rulers for being slow to respond to Cyclone Nargis, which left nearly 140,000 people dead or missing. He was convicted of causing public alarm and illegally giving information to the press.

Zarganar's sister-in-law, Ma Nyein, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that prison officials had confirmed that Zarganar was on a list of those to be freed. "I am very happy," she said.

Freedom for political detainees has been hotly anticipated as part of liberalizing measures since Myanmar's long-ruling military government handed power in March to a military-backed civilian administration.

"We welcome the amnesty announcement. This is very good news and we hope that many political prisoners will be among those freed," said Nyan Win, a spokesman for democracy movement leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

President Thein Sein, a former army officer who took office in March, has begun a dialogue with the democracy movement and promised other reforms that could start to reverse the harsh policies of decades of military rule.

The announcement said 6,359 inmates would be released beginning Wednesday under a humanitarian amnesty signed by Thein Sein for inmates who are old, disabled, unwell or who had shown good "moral behavior."

Relatives of political detainees were excited by the announcement, but wary, given that they could not be sure who would be among those released. Thein Sein instituted an earlier amnesty soon after taking office, but it included just a few dozen political detainees

Most prominent political prisoners, including many affiliated with ethnic minorities, are held in facilities far from the country's main city of Yangon, in a policy apparently aimed at limiting their ability to communicate through visiting family members and lawyers.

The release of political detainees has been a key concern of the United States, which has been seeking to re-engage with Myanmar after isolating its former military government with political and economic sanctions over its poor record on human rights and democracy.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Tuesday that the U.S. wanted to see the release of all political prisoners, and it was looking to see who was released in the upcoming amnesty.

"We have made clear our desire to see continuing progress on issues such as prisoner releases" and other matters, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Kurt M. Campbell said Monday during a lecture in the Thai capital, Bangkok.

Myanmar officials who have spoken privately of the release do not expect all of the country's 2,000 political detainees to be freed. But a failure to release a substantial number could be considered an inadequate gesture by Washington.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China, Vietnam sign deal to resolve sea dispute

BEIJING (AP)—China and Vietnam have signed an agreement aimed at resolving bitter maritime disputes that drove relations between the communist neighbors to their lowest level in years. The official Xinhua News Agency said Wednesday that the six-point agreement was signed by China's Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhijun and his Vietnamese counterpart Ho Xuan Son. The agreement calls for twice yearly meetings, and the setting up a hotline to deal with emergencies. The two countries along with Taiwan, Brunei, Philippines and Malaysia have competing claims on parts of the South China Sea and potentially rich oil and gas finds.

Philippines' Aquino unveils $1.6B stimulus package

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president has announced a 72 billion peso ($1.66 billion) stimulus package to cushion the economy from the impact of a global economic slump amid Europe's debt crisis. President Benigno Aquino III said Wednesday that additional spending this year includes 6.5 billion pesos ($149 million) for local infrastructure and poverty alleviation and 10 billion pesos ($230 million) to relocate squatters affected by floods and landslides. Another 5.5 billion pesos ($126 million) will be spent on national infrastructure projects and 6.3 billion pesos ($146 million) to upgrade two of metropolitan Manila's light rail lines. He says the stimulus "will be spent on projects that will have high macroeconomic impact, and will help the poor."

4 Filipino kids drown, 1 missing in swollen river

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Four children drowned and another was missing after they were swept away by a rampaging river as a new storm blew toward the Philippines, which is still recovering from back-to-back typhoons. Office of Civil Defense Administrator Benito Ramos said the five children were crossing the rain-swollen river as they rushed home from school Monday in Barotac Viejo town in Iloilo province and were swept away by the current. Villagers recovered the bodies of four of the children, including three siblings, on Tuesday and were still searching for the fifth child, Ramos said.

Flood toll in Vietnam's Mekong Delta climbs to 34

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam's government says the death toll from the worst seasonal flooding in more than a decade has climbed to 34 people, mostly children. It said Wednesday that the worst floods since 2000 also have submerged more than 60,000 homes and caused an $45 million in damage to crops and infrastructure along the southern Mekong Delta since late August. In the worst hit-province of Dong Thap, six people including five children have drowned over the past two weeks, bringing the death toll there to 13.

World

Russia's Putin slams US, makes deals in China

BEIJING (AP)—Russia and China have vowed to make progress on a long-delayed deal on gas sales, as Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin sought to boost ties with Beijing while likening the U.S. to a parasite.

Putin and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao emerged from a half day of talks and formalities Tuesday pledging to resolve the dispute over the pricing of gas Russia plans to deliver by two Siberian pipelines. Putin was to meet Chinese President Hu Jintao on Wednesday, the second day of a two-day visit. So far deals struck included Chinese promises to invest $1.5 billion in a Siberian aluminum smelter and to put $1 billion into a joint investment fund.

"Those who sell always want to sell at a higher price, while those who buy want to buy at a lower price. We need to reach a compromise which will satisfy both sides," Putin told reporters.

In an interview later with Chinese state media, Putin played up cooperation with China and lashed out at the U.S., describing the dominance of the American dollar as parasitic.

"The U.S. is not a parasite for the world economy, but the U.S. dollar's monopoly is a parasite," Putin said, according to a report on the interview from Xinhua, the Chinese government news agency. Putin said he offered the criticism constructively in a search for common solutions to ease a roiling world economy.

Putin has frequently tried to use Russia's burgeoning ties with Beijing as a counterbalance to U.S. global predominance. And Chinese leaders have reciprocated the gestures. The Russian leader's trip to Beijing follows his recent announcement that he plans to swap jobs next year with President Dmitry Medvedev, returning him to the top position he held for eight years. Analysts have said that the transition could see Russia tilt further toward China.

AP

Chinese President Hu Jintao, 2nd left, holds the talks with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, unseen, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2011.

Last week, the two countries squelched a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Syria for its brutal crackdown on pro-reform protesters that has killed nearly 3,000 people since March. Their vetoes drew heavy criticism from Washington.

Chinese Premier Wen told reporters that China wanted to push ahead a "comprehensive strategic partnership" with Russia that would safeguard world stability and development.

But even as they reach out to each other, strains are evident between Moscow and Beijing in the trade and security issues that have bolstered relations over the past decade. Moscow is unhappy with China's copying of Russian fighter jets and other military hardware and recently announced the arrest of a Chinese man accused of seeking to buy military secrets.

While trade is booming—rising, by China's count, to more than 39 percent to $35.9 billion in the first half of the year from the same period last year—it's heavily geared toward Chinese purchases of Russian resources. Moscow wants more Chinese investment in Russia itself.

Efforts to complete the natural gas deal have plodded on, with Russia preferring to link gas prices to oil prices, as it does in Europe, and China wanting a lower price.

All told, Russian and Chinese officials say deals worth $7 billion are to be signed during Putin's visit, in fields including biotechnology and space exploration.

Israel, Hamas announce swap for captured soldier

JERUSALEM (AP)—In a much-anticipated prisoner exchange that could have broad implications, Israel and Hamas on Tuesday announced that an Israeli soldier abducted to Gaza five years ago would be swapped for about 1,000 Palestinians held by Israel and accused of militant activity.

Israel's government approved the deal early Wednesday following a three-hour debate after both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal announced the agreement in televised comments.

Netanyahu said the captured soldier, Sgt. Gilad Schalit, would return home within days. Mashaal, portraying the agreement as a victory, said the Palestinian prisoners would be freed in two stages over two months.

Hamas and Israel are bitter enemies. Hamas has sent dozens of suicide bombers into Israel, killing hundreds, and Israel blockaded Gaza after Hamas seized power there in 2007, carrying out a large-scale invasion in 2009 to try to stop daily rocket attacks on Israel. More than 1,500 Gaza Palestinians have been killed in Israeli raids and airstrikes since the soldier was captured.

In the northern Gaza town of Jebaliya, thousands of Hamas supporters flocked the streets, led by masked militants. Cars with loudspeakers played praise for Hamas. Thousands of other Gazans rushed to their border with Egypt, clutching Palestinian and Egyptian flags, tossing flowers and cheering.

Gaza's Hamas prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh, smiled as he threw candy to celebrating backers.

The deal maintains a decades-long tradition of lopsided exchanges that have come under increasing criticism in Israel—and ends a period of tortured indecision by Israeli governments torn between securing the release of a single soldier and the risk that freed militants might return to violence that could cost many more lives.

"There is built-in tension between the desire to return a kidnapped soldier ... and the need to preserve the security of the citizens of Israel," Netanyahu said, in comments at opening the Cabinet meeting. "I believe we reached the best deal that we can reach at this time, a stormy time in the Middle East."

In agreeing to go ahead with the deal, the career hardliner made a potentially fateful choice.

It gives Hamas, a militant group that rules the Gaza Strip, a victory that might strengthen its hand against the more moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, whose Palestinian Authority runs the West Bank.

Mashaal said 1,000 male prisoners and 27 female ones would be released, the first 450 over the next week and the rest within two months. He said the released would include 315 prisoners serving life sentences, suggesting they were convicted of attacks that caused the deaths of Israelis.

Seeming to confirm Israel's fears, Mashaal said that those who are released "will return to ... the national struggle."

"This is a national achievement for the whole Palestinian people," Mashaal said, adding that he was pained not to be able to release the thousands of remaining prisoners held by Israel. The exact number of prisoners is under some contention, with the Palestinians citing 8,000 and Israel confirming about 5,000.

Yoram Cohen, head of Israel's Shin Bet security agency, said over the course of six secret rounds of talks in recent months, Hamas had backed down from key demands, including the release of some top militants. He said about 40 of the first group of prisoners would be exiled to other countries.

News of the deal set off wild celebrations at a protest tent erected by Schalit's family outside Netanyahu's residence in Jerusalem. Several hundred people danced in the street and waved flags with Schalit's image on it.

The soldier's father, Noam, has become a well-known public figure by pushing for his son's freedom.

The tiny structure is decorated with pictures of Schalit, as well as a large sign with the number 1,934, the number of days he has been in captivity. Schalit's parents sat in the tent, smiling as people flooded to the area and cars honked horns in excitement.

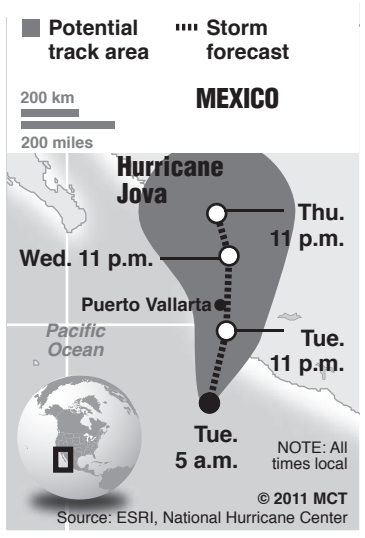
But typical of the criticism was a statement by Almagor, a group representing victims of Palestinian attacks. "In the end Netanyahu has surrendered to Hamas," the group said. "The terrorists who are released are a danger to the citizens of Israel."

The plight of Palestinian prisoners is equally emotional among Palestinians. Virtually every Palestinian has a relative who has served time in an Israeli prison, and Palestinians routinely hold large demonstrations where they hold up posters of their imprisoned loved ones.

Hurricane Jova bears down on Mexican resort coast

MANZANILLO, Mexico (AP)—Hurricane Jova bore down on a vulnerable Mexican coastline late Tuesday as people hunkered down in homes and shelters in tourist resorts and flood-prone mountain villages.

Jova had weakened some before swirling to within 60 miles (95 kilometers) of shore, but it still had maximum sustained winds of 100 mph (160 kph), the U.S. National Hurricane Center reported. The forecast path pointed to landfall in the middle of the night between Barra de Navidad and the larger resort of Puerto Vallarta to the north.



As the storm's leading rain bands began swatting at the coast Tuesday night, heavy rain fell in the port city of Manzanillo and strong winds made palm trees sway.

Earlier Tuesday, marines visited flood-prone areas in Manzanillo to advise people to leave. They found a home for elderly people already flooded and evacuated 37 residents to relatives' homes, Adm. Jaime Mejia said.

Forty others were evacuated in the nearby town of Tecoman, Mejia said.

Jova was centered about 60 miles (95 kilometers) southwest of Manzanillo late Tuesday and was moving north-northeast at 8 mph (13 kph), the U.S. hurricane center in Miami said.

Some people decided to ride out the storm, while others took refuge at shelters in towns like Jaluco, just inland from the beach community of Barra de Navidad.

"My house has a thatch roof, and it's not safe," said Maria de Jesus Palomera Delgado, 44, a farmworker's wife who went to an improvised shelter at a grade school in Jaluco, along with her 17 children and grandchildren.

"The neighbors told us the house was going to collapse" if hit by the hurricane, she added as the children slept nearby on folding cots packed into a classroom.

In an another classroom, migrant farmworker Rufina Francisco Ventura, 27, fed her 2-month-old son. She said she had left the ranch where she plants chilies and tomatoes planning only to pick up some free blankets, but shelter workers "told me I shouldn't leave here, because it's going to hit hard."

Jalisco state authorities evacuated about 200 people to shelters by Tuesday and was issuing alerts over loudspeakers placed in communities long the coast, telling people to take precautions as the hurricane approached, state civil defense spokesman Juan Pablo Vigueras said. The state had 69 shelters ready, he said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexico: Central America migration drops 70 percent

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The number of Central American migrants crossing Mexico to reach the United States has dropped almost 70 percent over the last five years, the Mexican government said Tuesday. Immigration Commissioner Salvador Beltran del Rio said the estimate is based on the decline in the number of Central Americans detained for being in Mexico without proper documents. He said there were 433,000 such detentions in 2005 and 140,000 last year.

Former UN official presses $1 million demand

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—James Wasserstrom says he was fired from his U.N. job in Kosovo, detained briefly at the border, had his apartment in Pristina searched and was humiliated by "wanted posters" posted at the U.N. mission after he reported suspicions of corruption. On Wednesday, Wasserstrom will ask for $1 million in damages in a high-profile test case of the U.N.'s new court system for employee issues. It replaces the secret, delay-plagued system that legal experts in 2006 called "dysfunctional" and critics said heavily favored U.N. management. Wednesday's hearing is meant to determine whether senior U.N. officials retaliated against Wasserstrom for bringing up corruption concerns about his colleagues.

Environment

Using disinfectants and sterilizers as pesticides

There are various types of pesticides, some obvious, some not. A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. Many household products are pesticides and can include kitchen, laundry, and bath disinfectants and sanitizers. Products that kill mold and mildew are also considered pesticides.

These types of pesticides are called antimicrobial pesticides. Antimicrobial pesticides are products intended to be used to (a) disinfect, sanitize, reduce, or mitigate growth or development of microbial organisms or (b) protect inanimate objects, industrial processes or systems, surfaces, water or other chemical substances from contamination, fouling or deterioration caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa, algae or slime.

Antimicrobial pesticides come in a wide variety of forms, including toilet bowl sanitizers, swimming pool chemicals, and bleach. These products can be used to treat surfaces, air and water to prevent, reduce, or kill dangerous harmful and non-harmful bacteria, fungi, algae and viruses.

Antimicrobial pesticides are categorized based on the type of microbial pest they are designed to reduce or eliminate. Some products are intended to kill certain pests like algae and odor-causing bacteria that are generally not a threat to human health.

There are three types of "public health" antimicrobial pesticides:

Sterilizers are products used to destroy or eliminate all forms of microbial life including fungi, viruses, all forms of bacteria and their spores. They are the strongest type of public health antimicrobials. Sterilizers are generally used in medical and research settings where the presence of microbes must be prevented as much as possible.

Disinfectants are products used on hard inanimate surfaces and objects to destroy or inactivate the growth of bacteria and fungi. Some disinfectants target specific viruses. Disinfectants are used in medical and residential settings and are used to disinfect hard, non-porous surfaces such as toilets, bathtubs, kitchen floors, linens, and other hard surfaces.

Sanitizers are products used to reduce microorganisms from inanimate surfaces to levels considered safe as determined by public health codes or regulations. Sanitizers are the weakest type of public-health antimicrobials. Some sanitizers can be used for locations where food products are places and stored and other sanitizers can only be used for non-food contact surfaces like carpets or in air.

The DEQ Pesticide Management branch is charged with the responsibility to regulate the importation, sale and distribution of pesticides, legal or illegal to ensure public health and a clean and healthy environment. DEQ staff regularly inspects business establishments for any misbranded products. Should misbranded items be found, all misbranded pesticides will be confiscated and penalties may be assessed.

The CNMI Pesticide Regulations are available to any interested party. Call or visit the Division of Environmental Quality Pesticide Management branch at 664-8522, located along Chalan Pale Arnold at the Gualo Rai Center or visit the DEQ website at www.deq.gov.mp. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. ***(DEQ)***

SPCC (Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure) compliance date

On Oct. 7, 2010, EPA maintained the Nov. 10, 2010, compliance date for drilling, production or workover facilities that are offshore or that have an offshore component, and for onshore facilities required to have and submit Facility Response Plans. However, EPA extended the compliance date an additional year for all other facilities to amend or develop a SPCC plan until Nov. 10, 2011.

You need an SPCC plan if you:

- Have an above ground oil storage capacity greater than 1,320 gallons using storage media such as tanks, containers, drums, portable totes, transformers and other oil filled electrical equipment
- Have an underground tank storage capacity greater than 42,000 gallons
- Drill, produce, store, process, refine, transfer, distribute, use, or consume oil or oil products
- Could reasonably be expected to discharge oil to navigable waters of the United States, or adjoining shorelines

What are the compliance dates for SPCC facilities?

A facility, including a mobile or portable facility, starting operation...	Must...
On or before Aug. 16, 2002	Maintain its existing SPCC Plan. Amend and implement the amended SPCC Plan no later than Nov. 10, 2011 After Aug. 16, 2002 through Nov. 10, 2011
After Aug. 16, 2002 through Nov. 10, 2011	Prepare and implement an SPCC Plan no later than November 10, 2011
After Nov. 10, 2011 (excluding production facilities)	Prepare and implement an SPCC Plan before beginning operations
After Nov. 10, 2011 (production facilities)	Prepare and implement an SPCC Plan within six months after beginning operations.*

For more information about the SPCC Rule (40 CFR 112), please visit: http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/nprm.htm#WhatDoesRuleSay and http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/spcc/index.htm ***(DEQ)***

Second showing of *The Navigators*

Due to popular demand, First Friday Films will be showing *The Navigators: Pathfinders of the Pacific* for a second time at 6pm this Friday, Oct. 14, at American Memorial Park Visitors Center.

Last Friday this film was shown to a capacity crowd, with some being turned away due to the venue's seating limitations. To accommodate those who were unable to attend, organizers have arranged the second showing.

This film by anthropologist/filmmaker Sanford Low explores ancient navigational heritage in the tiny coral atoll of Satawal in Micronesia's remote Caroline Islands. In addition to interviews with the late Dr. Pius "Mau" Piailug in Satawal, *Navigators* discusses archaeology and accounts of explorers to examine the history of navigation and how traditional Pacific societies sustain this valuable cultural system.

First Friday Films is a monthly film series brought to you through a partnership with the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality, with generous support from community groups such as the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

The Pacific Historic Parks (formerly the Arizona Memorial Museum Association) Bookstore, located inside the visitor's center, will be open until 8:30pm. All proceeds go to community education programs.

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 60 minutes long. As always, "First Friday Films" is free and open to the public. Find more information about the film at www.first-fridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. ***(PR)***

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Business Operations Manager
Graduate of a 4-year degree course and with a minimum of 8 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 2 years of general management experience in freight forwarding, shipping, transportation, warehouse activities, safety performance, logistics operations and quality management. Knowledge of supply chain, courier & warehousing operations, stock control, financial and quality management is required. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

Logistics Manager
Graduate of 4-year degree course and with at least 6 years management experience in the logistics business with emphasis on airfreight, ocean freight forwarding, warehousing and fuel hauling operations. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, Environmental and Occupational Safety Hazards is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Accounting Manager
Graduate of 4-year degree course in accounting with at least 5 years experience in financial management: directing the preparation of financial reports; implementing cash management; and directing investment activities for a logistics supply chain business operations. Must have excellent written communication and analysis skills for financial data reporting. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics software are a must.

Storage and Distribution Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years of distribution and warehousing supervisory experience. Knowledge of household goods handling and airfreight and oceanfreight operations is required. Proficiency in Warehouse management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Shipping Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of shipping, receiving and warehousing supervisory experience is required. Proficiency in shipping operations, shipping documentation & cargo management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, 49 CFR & IMDG Code is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines. Knowledge of bill of ladings, scheduling and planning inbound and outbound shipments is a must.

Transportation Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of logistics and trucking operations supervisory experience is required. Must be knowledgeable in transportation and safety regulations and proficient in various logistic software. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Freight Forwarding Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years experience in freight forwarding operations and 1-year experience in transportation security and communication related activities. Knowledge of TSA security regulations and proficiency in TSA Known Shipper Management System are a must. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation and IATA related trainings. Proficiency in airfreight documentation, freight forwarding software, FEDEX systems and operations are a must. Must be familiar with airline operations and regulations.

Sales Officer (2)
Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations is a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

Accountant
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years experience in financial management for a logistics/supply chain business or agency operations. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics systems. Proficient in MS Excel, Word and Power Point. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Bookkeeper
Associate's Degree in Business or Accounting. At least 2 years of work related experience in general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in Microsoft Office applications and various logistics software and adept in the use of of SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controling) System. Can work well even with less supervision. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Cargo and Freight Agent (5)
Associate's Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend.

Specialized Truck Driver (7)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Must have at least 3 years experience in hauling petroleum products with the corresponding SMITHS & STOPS training certification, carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazmat and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety procedures.

Heavy Equipment Truck Driver (3)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazmat and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Shipping and Receiving Clerk (6)
Associate's Degree and at least 2 years work related experience. Must be proficient in MS Office programs as well as other planning and logistics software. Knowledge of supply chain, shipping operations and procedures, document preparation and recordkeeping is required. Should possess good interpersonal and verbal communication skills.

Truck Mechanic
Vocational or High School Graduate. Must be able to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, or maintain and repair any type of engines. Minimum of two (2) year work experience is required on these areas: lubrication, repairs and servicing, use of machine tools, welding and flame cutting, engine elements, gears, brakes, transmission, exhausts, etc. Expertise in critical devices for fuel tank trucks is a must.

Automotive Body Repairer
Formal Auto Body Training in a Vocational School is required as well as a minimum of one-year experience in repairing and refinishing automotive vehicle bodies' vehicle frames. Proficiency in automotive body painting is required.

Janitor
Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

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For applications to be considered, they should be sent to hrd@ctsispn.com not later than October 21, 2011.

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Life & Style

Pop sensation Rain joins South Korean army

UIJEONGBU, South Korea (AP)—South Korean pop star Rain bid farewell to tearful fans as he put one of Asia's most successful entertainment careers on hold to enter boot camp and begin nearly two years of military service.

The 29-year-old singer and actor, his hair neatly cropped, gave a military salute to fans Tuesday before he disappeared into an army base in Uijeongbu north of Seoul—more than 50 years after Elvis Presley was drafted in the U.S. army from the heights of stardom.

"Thank you for the 10 years of love," Rain told hundreds of gathered fans as tears welled in his eyes. Many of the fans were from Japan and China and held banners with messages meant to cheer him.

Rain is fulfilling his compulsory military service at a relatively late age and risks losing career momentum during the 21 months he spends out of the public eye. But he could otherwise face a backlash given South Korea's hostility toward draft dodgers.

Rain, whose real name is Jung Ji-hoon, is not expected to receive any special treatment in South Korea's 650,000-strong military. All able-bodied South Korean men are required to serve about two to three years, in a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Military service has agonized many young South Korean entertainers and athletes hoping to continue their successful careers. Athletes can be exempted from service if they win an Olympic gold medal or otherwise improve the country's image with major achievements. But entertainers—no matter how successful they are abroad—enjoy no such lenience from the government.

"Entertainers are thought to work for their own sakes. That's the difference," said Hwang Sang-min, a Yonsei University psychology professor and frequent commentator on popular entertainment.

Recent years have seen a series of draft-dodging scandals involving top stars.

Song Seung-heon, a Korean drama star hugely popular in Japan and other Asian countries, suffered a massive public backlash in 2004 over attempts to avoid the draft. He eventually went to the army and is now back on the path of success.

"The mood against draft dodgers is so hostile that nowadays entertainers feel it's better to simply get it over with," said Ha Jae-keun, a South Korean pop columnist.

In the past, a two- or three-year hiatus often meant irrevocable damage to an entertainer's career in South Korea as the public moved on to new faces, but nowadays military service can actually enhance a star's image, Ha said.

Rain's musical career includes seven albums, and he has acted in several South Korean film. *Time* magazine named him one of the 100 most influential people in the world. He made his Hollywood film debut in "Speed Racer" in 2008.

Kim Hee-ra, a 21-year-old Sogang University student in Seoul, said she was sad to see Rain go but glad that he was fulfilling his duties.

AP

South Korean pop singer Rain gives a military salute to his fans before he enters the army to serve in front of an army training center in Uijeongbu, north of of Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2011.

IN MEMORIAM

EDWARD WALTER CAMACHO

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In memory of our beloved, who was entombed at Pigo Catholic Cemetery in Guam on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, a Memorial Mass for the eternal repose of his soul will be celebrated in Saipan at Kristo Rai Church on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at 6:00PM.

Please join us in prayers.

Sheryl Sizemore Camacho, Children and Family

Sarkozys unusually mum about First Baby

PARIS (AP)—Their early courtship was hardly discreet: President Nicolas Sarkozy and Carla Bruni visited Disneyland Paris together, then jetted off to Jordan with cameras in tow. Weeks later, they were married.

Now, Bruni-Sarkozy is about to have a baby, and the pending birth has taken on the air of a state secret—revealing the caution within Sarkozy's political team as the unpopular president eyes a possible re-election bid.

Bruni-Sarkozy is poised to become the first first lady in modern France to give birth. Sarkozy, who has long cast himself a mold-breaker, is the first French leader to divorce—and remarry—while in office. They wed in early 2008, 3-1/2 months after he divorced the now-former Cecilia Sarkozy.

The hush-hush atmosphere over the upcoming birth says a lot about France.

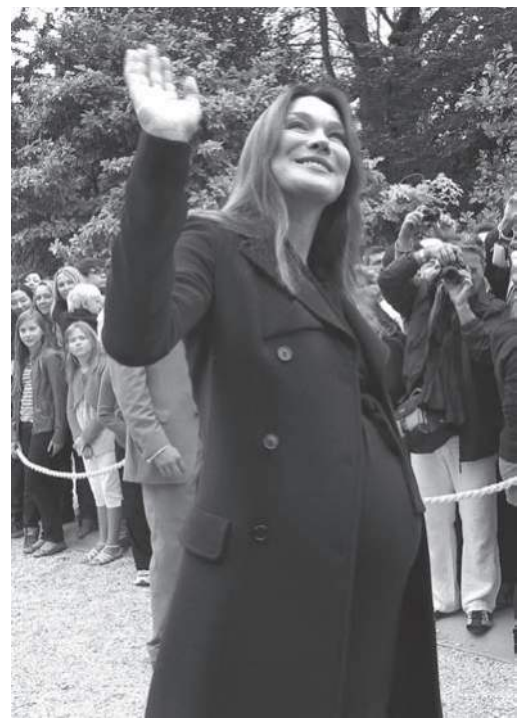
France's media establishment has a reputation for cushy ties to political powers-that-be, whose personal lives have mostly been off-limits. And conventional wisdom holds that the French public, in almost conscious contrast to what is considered Anglo-Saxon fascination with politicians' private lives, doesn't care much anyway.

The expectant mother, 43, said in recent media interviews that she didn't know the baby's gender and will make no photos of the baby public, praising a French law that bans the publication of images of children without parental consent.

The Elysee Palace has never officially acknowledged that a baby is on the way, and has indicated it won't announce the birth. Sarkozy's younger brother, doctor-turned-businessman Francois Sarkozy, told The AP that the family is leaving it up to the parents themselves to decide when and whether to say anything.

One unresolved question is how much the infant, even if it isn't seen, could provide a boost to Sarkozy, whose poll numbers are bleak as presidential elections loom six months away.

Bruni-Sarkozy, speaking to the BBC last month, insisted that the French were "uninterested" in her pregnancy. But some speculate that a newborn in the Elysee could help soften Sarkozy's rough-edge image: He made his name as a law-and-order interior minister and is seen as increasingly out of touch with the day-to-day problems of ordinary voters.



AP

In this Sept.17, 2011 file photo, France's first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy waves in the gardens of the Elysee Palace in Paris.

UN: Jolie visiting Libya in personal capacity

GENEVA (AP)—The U.N. refugee agency says goodwill ambassador Angelina Jolie is currently visiting Libya, though in a personal capacity.

A spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Adrian Edwards, said Tuesday that the U.S. actress nonetheless plans to meet with aid groups and UNHCR representatives in the country.

The Geneva-based agency said last week that it was discussing a bigger role for Jolie after receiving $5 million in donations from her over the past decade.

Jolie has visited dozens of countries to promote the cause of refugees during her 10 years as goodwill ambassador for UNHCR.

Thousands of Libyans fled their homes during the uprising against Moammar Gadhafi, though many have returned since the strongman's downfall.

Another celebrity is let go from 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chynna Phillips forgot her routine on Monday's "Dancing With the Stars," and on Tuesday she was dismissed from the show.

"I'm disappointed," she said after learning she'd be leaving. "I'm sad, but I have to take responsibility. I messed up."

Phillips lost her place in the middle of her tango with professional partner Tony Dovolani and wasn't able to recover.

"I blanked," she said. "I knew that routine. I just blanked."

Judges gave the pair 21 points out of 30. Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which contestant is eliminated each week.

"I'm very grateful to have been on the show and had the opportunity," Phillips said Tuesday. "Thank you everyone who voted for me."

Her husband, Billy Baldwin, who has cheered her on from the ballroom each week, said that his wife "stumbled out of the gate (on Monday) and had her first bad week in four weeks."

Phillips was among Monday's lowest scorers. Carson Kressley, who was in last place with 20 points, and Chaz Bono, who tied with Phillips, were saved by viewer votes to dance another week.

AP

In this image released by ABC, singer Chynna Phillips, left, and her partner Tony Dovolani perform on the celebrity dance competition series "Dancing with the Stars," Monday, Oct. 10, 2011 in Los Angeles.

Also returning next week to dance to 1980s hits will be Ricki Lake, J.R. Martinez, David Arquette, Nancy Grace, Rob Kardashian and Hope Solo.

Phillips is the fourth contestant eliminated so far on this season of the hit ABC show. Metta World Peace (formerly known as Ron Artest), Elisabetta Canalis and Kristin Cavallari were ousted on previous episodes.

Tuesday's results show also featured performances by Raphael Saadiq and Susan Boyle, and the return of two-time "Dancing" champ Julianne Hough. The professional dancer-turned-actress showed off some of the moves she'll be rocking when the remake of "Footloose" opens in theaters Friday. Hough and co-star Kenny Wormald danced to "I Need a Hero" before Blake Shelton offered his take on the movie's title song.

Coroner: Jackson didn't give himself fatal dose

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A medical examiner struck a major blow to the defense of Michael Jackson's doctor Tuesday, saying it is unreasonable to believe Jackson could have given himself a fatal dose of the powerful anesthetic propofol.

Murray

Dr. Christopher Rogers, who conducted the autopsy on Jackson, testified it was more likely that Dr. Conrad Murray overdosed the singer when he incorrectly estimated how much of the drug he was giving Jackson to induce sleep to fight insomnia.

Rogers said Murray had no precision dosing device available in the bedroom of Jackson's rented mansion.

"The circumstances, from my point of view, do not support self-administration of propofol," said Rogers, chief of forensic medicine in the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office.

Murray has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter.

Rogers analyzed two possible scenarios for Jackson's death. The first was the defense theory that while Murray stepped away to go to the bathroom, Jackson gave himself an extra dose of the drug he called his "milk."

"In order for Mr. Jackson to have administered the propofol to himself, you would have to assume he woke up and although he was under the influence of ... propofol and other sedatives, he was somehow able to administer propofol to himself," Rogers testified.

"Then he stops breathing and all of this takes place in a two-minute period of time," Rogers said. "To me, that scenario seems less reasonable."

"Less reasonable than what?" asked Deputy District Attorney David Walgren.

"The alternate scenario would be in order to keep Mr. Jackson asleep, the doctor would have to give him a little bit every hour, two or three tablespoons an hour," Rogers said, noting that propofol is a short-acting drug that wears off quickly.

"We did not find any precision dosing device, so the doctor would be estimating how much he was giving," the medical examiner said. Murray told police he gave Jackson only 25 milligrams of the drug, a very small dose that usually would have kept him asleep for no more than five minutes.

Rogers said he examined evidence found in Jackson's bedroom and noted there was an empty 100 milliliter bottle of propofol.

Rogers said the cause of death was "acute propofol intoxication and the contributing condition was the benzodiazepine effect."

Two sedatives from that drug group—lorazepam and midazolam—were found in Jackson's system after he died.

Rogers said he considered a number of factors in ruling the death a homicide. Among them were Murray's statements to police and the lack of sophisticated medical equipment in Jackson's bedroom, where the superstar had been receiving the anesthetic.

He said there was no EKG monitor and no resuscitation equipment present in the room.

Rogers also testified it would be inappropriate to use propofol outside a hospital or medical clinic.

Later in the day, defense attorney Michael Flanagan spent more than two hours trying to show on cross-examination that Jackson indeed could have self-administered drugs—not just propofol but the sedative lorazepam, which could be taken in pill form.

16 zombie actors injured on 'Resident Evil' set

TORONTO (AP)—Sixteen actors dressed as zombies were injured Tuesday when they fell from a platform during filming of a new movie in the "Resident Evil" series, officials said, and rescue workers at first were startled at the seemingly catastrophic scene.

Jovovich

"I could see the look on the first paramedic, saying 'Oh my God,'" Toronto emergency medical services Commander David Ralph said with a laugh.

Officials said none of the injuries were considered life-threatening, but that was far from apparent when rescue workers first arrived at what appeared to be a horrific scene. The victims' gory zombie costumes made it difficult for crews to assess the severity of the actors' injuries, said Peter Macintyre, Toronto emergency medical services spokesman.

Paramedics responded to the call from Cinespace Film Studios around 8:30 a.m., and Toronto Police Sgt. Andrew Gibson said responders quickly figured out which zombies were injured and which were just in character. "It did kind of catch us off guard when we walked in," he said.

Twelve victims were taken to a hospital.

One actor suffered a cracked rib, one a broken leg and one a possible back injury, the film's producers said.

Police Constable Tony Vella said the actors had been filming a scene on a high wheeled platform. The platform moved as they were going to another platform, leaving a gap into which the zombies fell.

The film's producers, Davis Films/Impact Pictures (RE5) Inc., Constantin Film International GmbH, issued a statement that said the accident involved background actors. They said a 4-foot (1.2-meter) high platform separated from the set, creating a gap.

Seven of the injured have already returned to the set, they said.

"Resident Evil: Retribution" is the fifth installment of a franchise based on the popular video game series and will be distributed by Screen Gems and Sony Pictures.

Lead actress Milla Jovovich was not on set at the time of the accident, according to her representative Christine Tripicchio.

Vella said the incident is classified as an industrial accident. Ontario's Ministry of Labor is investigating.

"They are sending an inspector and an engineer," said ministry spokesman William Lin, adding that about 50 workers were on the platform when it moved.

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Real Steel

Friday		4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:30	

Hugh Jackman, Dakota Goyo
Science fiction/Drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A retired pugilist transitions to the business side of the ropes after human boxers are replaced by robotic ones in director Shawn Levy's feature-length adaptation of the Twilight Zone episode "Steel." Charlie Kenton (Hugh Jackman) was fighting for the title when the sport of boxing was changed forever. Now, instead of humans duking it out for the masses, huge, powerful steel robots trade blows in the ring. As a result, former gladiator Charlie has been forced into the role of two-bit promoter, piecing together cut-rate fighting bots from scrap metal as he makes the rounds on the underground boxing circuit.

Dream House

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Daniel Craig, Naomi Watts
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

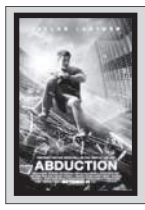
A successful New York writer (Daniel Craig) discovers that the country holds just as much menace as the big city after moving his family to a cozy New England town and discovering that their gorgeous new home was once the site of a brutal murder. The closer the writer and his wife (Rachel Weisz) get to their new neighbor (Naomi Watts), the more that details begin to emerge about the slaying of a devoted mother and her two children. Jim Sheridan (In America, Brothers) directs a script by David Loucka (The Dream Team, Problem Child).

★ ★ ★

What's Your Number?

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:20	

Anna Faris, Chris Evans
Comedy • Rated R



Abduction

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:15	

Taylor Lautner, Alfred Molina
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Dolphin Tales

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Morgan Freeman, Ashley Judd
Children's/family • Rated PG

Killer Elite

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:10	

Robert De Niro, Clive Owen, Jason Statham
Action • Rated R

Contagion

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:25	

Matt Damon, Marion Cottilard
Action • Rated PG 13

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Richard Gere guitar collection fetches $1M

NEW YORK (AP)—A collection of American vintage guitars owned by actor Richard Gere has fetched nearly $1 million at auction in New York City.

Tuesday's sale of 110 guitars and amplifiers at Christie's auction house included brands such as C.F. Martin, Gibson, Fender and Gretsch and guitars once owned by blues guitarist Albert King and reggae musician Peter Tosh.

The top sale went to a 1960 solid-body Les Paul electric guitar by Gibson, which sold for more than $98,000.

Gere says he's parting with the instruments to support global humanitarian causes. Christie's says the "Pretty Woman" star studied trumpet and is a self-taught pianist and guitarist.

Gere says he never planned to assemble a guitar collection and bought only ones that he liked and that sounded good to him.

The collection was expected to sell for about $1 million.

Adele leads AMA nominees with 4

Adele has the year's most popular album with "21," so it makes sense that she's the most nominated artist for this year's American Music Awards.

The nominees were announced Tuesday in Los Angeles by Nicki Minaj and Pitbull, and Adele led all nominees with four. The British soul singer and songwriter, whose hits include the No. 1 songs "Rolling in the Deep" and "Someone Like You," was nominated for artist of the year, favorite female artist, favorite adult contemporary artist and favorite album for "21." Her sophomore album is the year's best-selling album with more than 3.7 million copies sold in the United States.

Taylor Swift, Lady Gaga, Lil Wayne, Katy Perry, Rihanna and The Band Perry all trailed Adele closely with three nominations each. Pitbull and Minaj both got two nominations each, along with Beyonce, Bruno Mars, Chris Brown, Jason Aldean, LMFAO and Kanye West.

Lil Wayne, Swift, Perry and Lady Gaga are competing with Adele in the artist of the year category.

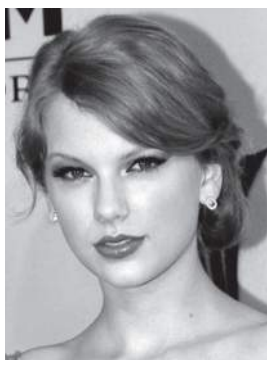
Nominees are determined from chart data, and winners will be determined by online fan voting.

The 39th annual American Music Awards will be held Nov. 20 at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles. Perry and Pitbull are the first confirmed performers. The show will air live on ABC. ***(AP)***

AP

In this Feb. 2, 2009 file photo. British singer-songwriter Adele poses for a portrait in West Hollywood, Calif.

Taylor Swift is Woman of the Year



Swift

NEW YORK (AP)—It's another honor for Taylor Swift. The country music superstar has been crowned "Woman of the Year" by Billboard magazine.

The 21-year-old multiplatinum singer-songwriter is the youngest to receive the award, which has gone to Beyonce, Reba McEntire and Fergie. The announcement was made Tuesday.

She will be honored at the 2011 Billboard Women in Music event in New York on Dec. 2.

Her latest album, "Speak Now," has sold over 3.6 million copies since its release last fall, and she's sold the most albums of any artist over the past year.

It's the latest honor for Swift, who became the youngest person to win the Grammy for best album for "Fearless" in 2010. She has also won several ACM, CMA and AMA awards.

Swift is currently on a national tour.

HBO to film Liberace biopic with Michael Douglas

NEW YORK (AP)—HBO says Michael Douglas is taking to the keyboard for its upcoming biopic of legendary pianist Liberace.

"Behind the Candelabra" will be directed by Steven Soderbergh. It will also star Matt Damon as Scott Thorson, the younger live-in lover of the flamboyant entertainer, to be played by Douglas. HBO made the announcement Tuesday.

Jerry Weintraub ("Ocean's Eleven, Twelve, Thirteen") is executive producer.

The film's title refers to the trademark candelabra always gracing Liberace's grand piano when he performed. He was also known for his outrageous costumes and extravagant jewelry.

The 67-year-old Douglas has recently battled throat cancer, but last January he announced his tumor was gone and predicted he had beaten the disease.

"Behind the Candelabra" is scheduled to begin production next summer. No airdate was announced.

AP

In this Sept. 7, 2011 file photo, actors Matt Damon, left, and Michael Douglas are shown at the after party for the film "Contagion," in New York.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Alicia Keys charity to honor late Beatle guitarist

NEW YORK (AP)—Alicia Keys' charity will pay tribute to late Beatle guitarist George Harrison with a star-studded concert in New York City next month. Her charity, called Keep a Child Alive, will honor Harrison at its annual Black Ball event for his "philanthropic contributions to India." The charity announced Tuesday that Keys will perform alongside Usher, Norah Jones and will.i.am at the Nov. 3 show at Manhattan's Hammerstein Ballroom. Mary J. Blige, Gary Clark Jr., Jay Sean and Midival Punditz with Karsh Kale will also hit the stage. Harrison died of lung cancer at age 58 in 2001. The event marks the eighth year for Keep a Child Alive, which helps children affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa and India. All proceeds from the show will go to the charity.

It's a girl for Tori Spelling and Dean McDermott

NEW YORK (AP)—Tori Spelling and husband Dean McDermott have a new baby girl. Spelling gave birth to daughter Hattie Margaret McDermott on Monday. The couple confirmed the news over their Twitter accounts, saying the baby is "gorgeous" and the family is "so happy." Spelling and McDermott already have two children together, Liam and Stella. McDermott also has a son from a previous marriage. The birth was first reported by Life & Style magazine. Spelling wed McDermott in 2006 after meeting on the set of a TV movie. The couple plans to introduce their new baby on the premiere of the sixth season of their reality show, "Tori & Dean: Home Sweet Hollywood." It airs Nov. 29 at 10pm ET/PT on Oxygen.

Richard Ford joining Columbia faculty

NEW YORK (AP)—Richard Ford, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and Mississippi native, is heading to New York City. Columbia University announced Tuesday that the author of "Independence Day" is joining its faculty. Ford, currently teaching at the University of Mississippi, will fill a newly created position at Columbia for a professor of humanities and writing. He will teach at Columbia's MFA writing program. Ford's other books include the novel "The Sportswriter" and the story collection "Women With Men."

Youngster's kidney disease is topic for open discussion

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have two sons, 19 and 12. My younger boy has a rare form of kidney disease. His kidney function is currently normal, but his doctor says that in the future he may need a new kidney. At that point, his brother would be high on the list for compatibility and availability. I, sadly, would not.

How does one mention the possibility of being a donor to his older brother? Is it even fair to ask? If he doesn't offer, would I always resent it? Should we wait until there is a real need before asking?

PLANNING AHEAD IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR PLANNING AHEAD: All families are different, and it's a credit to yours that you're thinking ahead regarding some of the difficult aspects related to donation. This subject can sometimes be fraught with the potential for perceived coercion. It can be offset by NOT framing it as a "request" from one family member, but as a general family discussion about the loved one's health situation.

Among the issues that should be raised: What does it mean for your younger son to have this rare kidney disease? What's the survival rate for an adolescent who receives a living donor transplant? What is involved in the donation process?

These questions should be raised as a family in conversation with a physician or other members of the kidney care team. Family members can then talk about how they feel about the issue, NOT as a response to a direct question. This provides a chance for better education about the condition as well as the process, and reduces fear.

The decision to be a living donor is a voluntary one and should be entered into free of pressure. Some people may not want to take the risk—and their rights should be respected. The evaluation process is very thorough. It's designed to minimize risk and also can uncover unexpected conditions in the potential donor that are important.

The National Kidney Foundation provides information on its website regarding this subject. Visit kidney.org to learn more.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I share a small office space with a coworker, "Tammy," who is going through a nasty divorce. At first I tried to be supportive and listen to her problems, but now I think it was a mistake. I now dread going to work because I know I'll have to 1isten to a litany of complaints as soon as I walk through the door.

I have tried to encourage Tammy to talk to a priest or a psychologist, but she refuses because she's embarrassed. Is it time to inform our manager? I don't want to get Tammy in trouble, but I feel I'm incapable of giving her the kind of support she seems to need. I'm not sure how much longer I can take this. Please help.

WELL-INTENTIONED IN MINNEAPOLIS

DEAR WELL-INTENTIONED: Summon up the courage to tell Tammy that although you care about her, you can no longer listen to her problems because it's distracting you from your responsibilities at work. Explain again that these are issues she should be sharing with a trained professional. If she persists in bringing her personal problems to you, THEN ask your manager to put a stop to it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HERE COMES SUSIE.
HA! WON'T SHE BE HORRIFIED TO SEE HOW OUR FACES HAVE TRAGICALLY FROZEN!
HI, SUSIE.
HI, CALVIN.
WHAT DID YOU DO, GET YOUR HEAD STUCK IN THE BLENDER? IT'S AN IMPROVEMENT.
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

HOW ARE YOU TODAY, GARFIELD?
GREAT!
COULDN'T BE BETTER! SWELL!
YOU HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU TELL A VETERINARIAN
JIM DAVIS 10-13
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I CAN GET THIS A LOT CHEAPER ONLINE.
CAN YOU GET COFFEE, NEWSPAPERS, MUFFINS AND A WARM PLACE FULL OF BOOK LOVERS ONLINE?
IN THESE TOUGH TIMES, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PRICE.
OH, HEY, CAN I GET YOUR BATHROOM KEY?
OH, GOSH. I'LL HAVE TO SEE IF I CAN FIND IT... OR MAYBE YOU COULD TRY ONLINE?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Navigator's stack
5 Deck in the ring
9 Upper surface
12 Oil cartel
13 Leading man?
14 "Hail, Caesar!"
15 Pianist's ticker
17 Barbie's companion
18 Agreement
19 No stay-at-homes
21 Lindbergh book
22 Plot mathematically
24 Back talk
27 Greet the villain
28 Grant's —
31 Thickness
32 Once around the track
33 Long March leader
34 Yin counterpart
36 Salt Lake athlete
37 Titanic's destroyer
38 Knighted women
40 "Monopoly" square
41 Increase in troop levels
43 Antenna
47 Yoko of music
48 Houston sports venue
51 Poorly lit
52 Squad
53 Rams' fans?
54 Chowed down
55 Stitches
56 Carry on

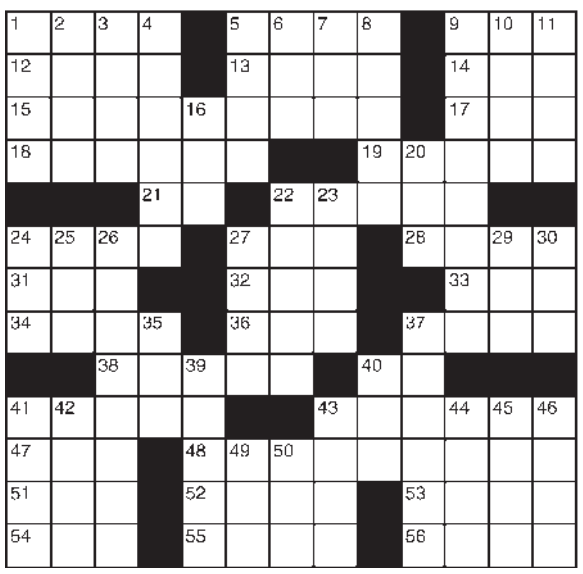
DOWN

1 NYC cultural center
2 "Planet of the —"
3 Household critters
4 Threaded nails
5 Philosopher Immanuel
6 Big bother
7 Sweet potato
8 Last letter
9 After-taxes
10 Finished
11 Nerd-pack contents
16 Indivisible
20 Choose (for)
22 "The Men Who Stare at —"
23 Lasso
24 Agent
25 In the manner of
26 Stockholm —
27 Sad
29 Scratch
30 Cranberry territory
35 Joke
37 Edge
39 Butcher's wares
40 Earth (Pref.)
41 Pop
42 Troop group
43 Weaponry
44 Midwest state
45 "So be it"
46 For fear that
49 Witness
50 Playing marble

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	C	U	M	■	B	O	A	■	A	B	U	T
O	L	L	A	■	A	N	D	■	N	A	P	A
P	U	N	I	S	H	E	D	■	A	N	O	N
H	E	A	D	E	R	■	E	D	G	I	N	G
■	■	■	S	P	A	■	D	O	R	S	■	■
O	F	F	■	T	I	N	■	T	A	H	O	E
I	R	I	S	■	N	A	B	■	M	E	R	E
L	O	N	E	R	■	P	A	R	■	D	F	N
■	■	■	I	D	E	S	■	Y	A	P	■	■
S	E	S	A	M	E	■	O	N	E	D	G	E
E	C	H	T	■	V	A	N	I	S	H	E	D
T	R	E	E	■	E	Y	E	■	T	O	N	E
S	U	D	S	■	N	E	T	■	O	W	E	N

Yesterday's answer 10-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sacha Baron Cohen, 40; Kate Walsh, 44; Kelly Preston, 49; Marie Osmond, 52.

Happy Birthday: Stay calm, observe what's going on around you and recall past experiences so you don't repeat mistakes. There is plenty to gain by working hard and saying little until you are ready to present what you have to offer. You are in a high cycle, creatively and romantically. Networking with like-minded people will bring about greater opportunity. Your numbers are 5, 8, 14, 21, 37, 39, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A force play is likely to alter your point of view or a decision you need to make. Partnerships will play an important role in moving forward. An opportunity through a past acquaintance will prove interesting. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Arguments and aggressive behavior should not be allowed to sway you. Don't feel guilty when you should be looking out for you and your best interests. A partnership will need to be altered if it's going to continue. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll be motivated to make changes by someone who is set in his or her ways. Striving for something new will catapult you into the forefront of an industry desperate for change. Good fortune and greater opportunity are heading your way. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Volunteering for a cause you believe in or a community event will bring you in touch with interesting new people. Expand your interests and you will be able to offer more, as well as raise your earning potential. New beginnings are apparent. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't go overboard. Too much of anything can add to your stress, especially when the bills come in. If someone demands too much, perhaps you should reconsider your relationship. Don't give in to temptation or overindulgent tendencies. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Knowledge is key. Find out all you can about an interest you have. Travel or visiting someone who offers insight and answers will pay off. Apply pressure, if it will help you get what you want. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A pending legal matter must be put to rest. Don't wait for results when pressure is needed to get things moving. Be ready to offer something unique to get your way. A past experience will help you make a beneficial decision. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Emotional ties will require attention. Anger will not solve problems. A greater understanding of what you want must be conveyed if you plan to get good results. Focus on an important partnership that affects you emotionally, as well as productively. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Hold on to your cash. An impulsive financial move will not pan out. Don't buy into something because of someone else. Make up your own mind, even if it will put stress on a relationship. Diplomacy will be required, along with integrity and discipline. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Give-and-take will lead to love and romance. It's how you manage your personal affairs that will make a difference in your attitude and the way you handle business. An opportunity to make alterations at home will pay off. Listen to constructive criticism. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't let love cost you emotionally or financially. Refuse to let anyone back you into a corner. An opportunity to travel may entice you, but if the cost is too high, find an alternative that will bring similar, if not better, results. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Old contracts will help you know exactly what to ask for to seal a deal. Love is in the stars, and a celebration with someone special will be the perfect ending to a day filled with great potential to get ahead. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, disciplined and eager to express your ideas.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5		9		1		2	
9		2				5		4
	4						7	
4			1		8			5
6			5		4			7
	3						4	
2		7				9		6
	9		2		7		5	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	4	2	9	8	5	7	6	1
9	1	8	6	7	2	4	3	5
7	5	6	1	4	3	9	8	2
4	8	7	2	5	1	6	9	3
6	2	3	4	9	8	1	5	7
5	9	1	7	3	6	2	4	8
1	7	5	8	6	4	3	2	9
8	6	9	3	2	7	5	1	4
2	3	4	5	1	9	8	7	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WONDERWORD 2011 PROMOTIONAL TOUR **Solution: 10**

E	H	A	I	H	P	L	E	D	A	L	I	H	P	M
L	V	O	K	Y	T	I	C	I	T	N	A	L	T	A
I	C	I	L	L	I	N	O	I	S	Y	A	O	L	G
N	L	A	R	L	Ⓢ	Ⓗ	Ⓞ	Ⓟ	N	N	U	O	E	G
D	I	V	A	D	I	R	N	O	S	R	U	S	U	I
A	N	S	S	M	T	E	T	I	S	I	L	T	F	E
I	T	R	H	E	A	T	R	Y	S	U	E	N	T	N
R	E	E	D	L	A	H	E	V	S	C	O	A	R	I
U	R	P	N	A	C	S	I	S	B	O	J	R	O	D
O	S	A	H	S	R	L	U	A	P	I	T	U	P	Y
S	T	P	O	E	L	M	I	C	H	I	G	A	N	J
S	A	S	J	E	F	F	E	R	S	O	N	T	E	O
I	T	W	S	L	E	T	O	H	M	A	P	S	V	Y
M	E	E	T	I	N	G	S	S	R	A	S	E	A	C
N	S	N	O	I	T	A	V	R	E	S	E	R	D	E

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Atlantic, Caesars, Chris, City, Clint, Davenport, David, Detroit, Dine, Drive, Fuel, Heat, Hollie, Hotels, Illinois, Interstate, Jefferson, Jobs, Joel, John, Joyce, Lee Salem, Linda, Louisville, Maggie, Maps, Meetings, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, Newspapers, Paul, Philadelphia, Plans, Reservations, Restaurants, Shop, Sue, Tonya, Tours

Yesterday's Answer: Dress Code

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 br. furnished apt. near MHS with AC in a quiet area off Texas Rd. 24hrs water & washer/dryer, ceiling fans in all rooms. $475, water included. Call Ed 788-6268/235-0409.

JD's Corporation
P.O. Box 502981 Saipan, MP 96950
Vacancy Announcement for US workers
Store Manager-College graduate
Min. 5 yrs experience. Salary $702.00 per month. Call 235-4405.
Email tomastchong@gmail.com or call 888-5748

EMPLOYMENT

8 Janitors & Cleaners. Salary-$5.05-$5.50/hr. MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. Email resume to: admin@mtosaipan.com

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2 Generator Techinician. Salary-$5.05 - $14.00/hr. Elliott Systems LLC. Email resume to: jeff@elliott-systemsllc.com

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ASC Construction is looking for 1-Project Manager-$16.92/hr.-$17.00/hr. Must have Bachelor's Degree in Engineering. Min. 10 years experience as Project Manager. Mail resume to PMB 885 Box 10001, Saipan MP 96950. No phone calls please

---

1 Architect. Degree required. 5 yrs exp. Utility residential design ACAD v2011. Send resume to P.O. Box 505339

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1 Computer programmer, Sal. $5.05/ hr. min. 4yrs exp. email resume to jikangahn@gmail.com, 235-4485 JJ Brothers Corp.

---

1 Gen Manager, 1 Scuba Diving Instructor. $5.25 to $7.00/hr depending on qualification w/ min of 5 yrs exp. Must speak, write & read Japanese. Must be Certified

WHATZIT Solution:
To each his own

EMPLOYMENT

Instructor by PADI. Napori Shoukai Inc. Tel: 322-2320

---

1 Electrician $ 5.05/hr & 1 Commercial Cleaner $ 5.05/hr Contact C & H Saipan, Inc. @ 234-7709

1 Building and Grounds Maintenance $ 5.05/hr. Contact Pacific International Marianas, Inc. dba Midway Motors @ 234-7524

---

1 Dressmaker (tailoring and custom design) Call Susan Island Style at 285-2906.

Herbarium / Farmer . 5 yrs. exp in growing herbs & masclun $300-500/ mo. Email resume to happydays-saipan@hotmail.com.

---

2 All around beautician. At least over 5 yrs experience. Pls call 235-4865 or 788-4865. Brianna Beauty Salon.

1-Commercial Cleaner, $5.05 per hour; 1-General Maintenance, $5.05 per hour. No phone calls please Mail resume to Chalan Kiya Apt. Circle at PO Box 502418, Saipan, MP 96950

1-General Maintenance, $5.05 per hour. No phone calls please Mail resume to Matilde Fejeran at PO Box 502418, Saipan, MP 96950

EMPLOYMENT

1-Accountant, $5.05-$6.50 per hour Mail resume to RR & Associates at PO Box 504039, Saipan, MP 96950 or call (670) 233-8391

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1 Administrative/Accounting Clerk, $5.50 to $6.50: Must have more than 5 years experience in accounting work; at least 6 months work experience in public accounting office; at least 4 years work experience in administrative position and exposure working with the company executives; knowledge in Quickbooks, Peachtree, FAS & tax software. Please send your resume at P.O. Box 503198, Saipan MP 96950 (Ernst & Young (CNMI), Inc.)

1-Commercial cleaner $5.05/hr. min. of 5 yrs. experience. Send resume to P.O.Box 5545 CHRB Saipan. JH Ent.

3-Cooks, $5.05 /hr., 5 yrs. experience, will work at 3:00 AM. Call D' Pirates Bar & Catering Services @ 235-3663.

1-Waitress, $5.05/hr., must have 5 yrs. experience, pleasing personality, knows how to entertain customers, flexible work schedule. Call D' Pirates Bar & Catering Services @ 235-3663.

1-Aircon Technician, $5.05-$7.00/

EMPLOYMENT

hr., 10yrs. experience, knowledge in centralized aircon & industrial electricity, will work day or night. Call T&G Aircon & Refrigeration Services @ 888-9161.

1-Maintenance, $5.05/hr., 5 yrs. experience, willing to work day or night. Call Nokalimi Office Rental @ 888-9161.

1-Accountant, $5.05/hr., 7 yrs. experience, knowledge in Quickbooks software. Call T&G Aircon & Refrigeration Services @ 888-9161.

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1 – Beautician $ 5.05/hr. 2 yrs. exp. Send resume to E & M Beauty Salon P.O. Box 484 San Jose Tinian MP 96952. Tel. 433-4560

S.K.Y. Inc. is looking for (1) Japanese/English Translator $ 6.00/ hr. 5 yrs. exp. Send resume to iikaori330@yahoo.co.jp

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USG Investments, Inc. is looking for (1) Ground Maintenance - $.5.55/hr. min. 5 yrs. exp. E-mail resume to jessp96950mm@yahoo.com

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MAC Corporation is looking for (1) Tint Installer-$5.05/hr. 10 yrs. exp. E-mail resume to maccation@gmail.com

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EMPLOYMENT

1 Accountant, Salary $5.05-$7.00/ hr. Bachelors Degree in Accounting w/ 5 years experience. Knowledgeable with AccountEdge Premium Accounting Software. Allied Marine Surveyors, Ltd. Email resume to allied@pticom.com

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5 Technician, College Graduate 3 yrs. min experience. Minimum salary. Know how to repair computer, electronics, engine.
Calvatron JR 233-5641

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8 Masseuse–Royal Thai Massage. 1 yr experience, green card or US citizen preferred pls call 234-2521

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(1) Title Support Specialist. Send resume to SECURITY TITLE INC PO Box 5049 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950 or email: securitytitle@pticom.com

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Sales Rep. $5.05 p/h. At least 2 yrs exp; Must provide own car; can work on weekends & holidays. Yoyi's Catering. 2883738

Cook. $5.05 p/hr. w/ 2 yrs exp, specializes in Fil recipes; Can work on weekends, nights, holidays. Yoyi's Catering. 2883738

Manager. College grad; At least 3 yrs exp; knows MS Word/Excel; Can wrk weekends, nights, holidays. Yoyi's Catering. 2883738

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

AUDITOR
Opening: October 12, 2011 to October 22, 2011

Job description: Duties include performing audit risk assessment procedures; performing test of internal controls related to financial statement audit in accordance with GAAP in the US and compliance audits in accordance with the applicable standards; performing detailed substantive audit procedures; preparing draft Audit Reports and Financial Statements; and performing compilation, review and agreed-upon procedure engagements.

Qualification: Graduate of BS Accountancy or related degrees, with at least 3 years experience in auditing private, government and not-for-profit organization. **Salary:** $26,500 per annum

Interested applicants may fax their resume at J. Scott Magliari & Co at 670-233-8214 or email at jsm@magliari-cpa.com on or before October 22, 2011.

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Maintenance & Repair Worker. Wage range $5.05 per hour.

Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Duties may involve pipe fitting; insulating; welding; machining; carpentry; masonry, repairing electrical or mechanical equipment; installing, aligning, and balancing new equipment; and repairing buildings, floors, or stairs. Applicant will be responsible for maintaining and servicing employer's private home as well as rental properties owned by employer and employer's family, employer's office, contracted for residences and commercial spaces and commercial building area. High school level, or an equivalent of at least 15 years of continued experience in maintenance and/or construction related trades. Must know how to operate a large variety of power equipment safely and in a non-destructive manner. Must be significantly skilled in masonry and carpentry and plumbing. Must arrive for work on time, all of the time. Must be able to work nights, weekends, and holidays, as required. Must be able to plan and execute repair and maintenance work in a self-contained environment. Must be able to read, and write basic English and speak and understand spoken English well. Able to converse in Tagalog or other non-English languages preferred. Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health and good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must have no criminal history and be able to provide current police and court clearance, must be able to obtain health certificate, must have reliable transportation and must agree to a drug test. Please email complete resume to Seanfrink@gmail.com by October 18.

Job Vacancy Announcement

JAGUAR LIMITED DBA. CLUB MERMAID

1 GENERAL MANAGER
Qualifications:
- 3 - 4 years work experience
- College graduate or college level with Management Course.
- Responsible for establishing goals & objectives for the operation
- Has excellent sales and marketing executions
- Ability to control profit & loss with business analysis
- Salary $7.00/hr

1 BARTENDER
Qualifications:
- At least 3 – 5 years experience
- Full time with flexible working hours
- Salary $5.05/hr

1 SUPERVISOR
Qualifications:
- 3 – 5 years work experience in Bar/Night Club operation
- Preferably College Graduate or College level.
- Full time with flexible working hours
- Salary $5.05/hr

15 WAITRESS
Qualifications:
- At least 21 – 25 years old with pleasing personality.
- 2 – 3 years experience as a Waitress in a bar or in an Entertainment Business.
- Full time with flexible working hours
- Salary $5.05/hr

5 SINGERS
Qualifications:
- At least 21 – 25 years old with pleasing personality.
- 2 – 3 years experience as a Singer in a Karaoke Bar or in an Entertainment Business.
- Full time with flexible working hours
- Salary $5.05/hr

Please mail your resume to PMB 697 BOX 10000 Saipan, MP 96950 Contact our Office at Tel.: (670) 233-1545 between 2:30PM to 9:00PM.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT-WINCHELL'S DONUTS

a. 1 vacancy for **Store Manager**. Wage range $7.50 per hour and up, depending on qualifications. College level. Must have at least 5 years of continued experience in managing bakery or similar operations. Must be able to manage 15 or more people and more than 1 store. Must be computer literate. Must know how to operate a cash register or POS system. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

b. 3 vacancies for **Store Supervisor**. Wage range $5.25 to $7.50 per hour depending on qualifications. College level. Must have at least 4-5 years of continued experience in supervising bakery operations. Must know how to operate a cash register or POS system. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be computer literate. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

c. 8 vacancies for **Sales Associates**. Wage range $5.05 to $5.25 per hour. High school level. Must have at least 4-5 years of continued experience in sales. Must know how to operate a cash register or POS system. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be computer literate. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Must be able to read, write and speak basic English. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

d. 6 vacancies for **Donut Makers/Bakers**. Wage range $5.05 to $5.25 per hour. High school level. Must have at least 3 years experience in baking. Knowledge in operating a cash register or POS system preferred. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be able to lift at least 50 lbs. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Must be able to read, write and speak basic English. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health and good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to provide current police and court clearance, must be able to obtain health certificate, must have a reliable transportation and must agree to a drug test.

Please get application forms and submit them at our Winchell's Garapan location from 8am to 12noon or email them to dennys@guam.net

SSFM INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Job Vacancy Announcement

One (1) Civil Engineer / Project Manager $15.00 to $18.55/hour
Degree: B.S. in Civil and Sanitary Experience
Experience: 15-20 years of Experience
- Knowledgeable in FHWA/AWWA/ASTM/ACI/AASHTO
- Proficient in MS Project, MS Word, MS Power Point and MS Excel
- Can prepare Project Schedule

Two (2) Civil Engineer / Construction Manager $14.00 to $17.85/hour
Degree: B.S. in Civil Engineering
Experience: 15-20 years of Experience
- Knowledgeable in FHWA/AWWA/ASTM/ACI/AASHTO
- Proficient in AutoCAD, MS Word, and MS Excel
- Can prepare plans and specification

One (1) Architect / Construction Manager $14.00 to $17.85/hour
Degree: B.S. in Architecture
Experience: 15-20 years of Experience
- Knowledgeable in FHWA/AWWA/ASTM/ACI/AASHTO
- Proficient in MS Word, and MS Excel
- Can prepare plans and specification

Two (2) Civil Engineer / Construction Inspector $7.25 to $10.85/hour
Degree: B.S. in Civil Engineering
Experience: 5-10 years of Experience
- Knowledgeable in FHWA/AWWA/ASTM/ACI/AASHTO
- Proficient in AutoCAD, MS Word, and MS Excel

One (1) Architect / Construction Inspector $7.25 to $10.85/hour
Degree: B.S. in Architecture
Experience: 5-10 years of Experience
- Knowledgeable in FHWA/AWWA/ASTM/ACI/AASHTO
- Proficient in MS Word, and MS Excel

PRADA

TRS SAIPAN
Travel Retail Stores
DFS Galleria

Is looking for qualified applicants to fill the following positions:

SALES ASSOCIATE

Qualified individual will report to the Store Manager and must possess the following:

Retail experience required
Japanese and Korean language preferred
Excellent Customer Service skills
Ability to work flexible hours
Commitment to complete required training programs
High school graduate or GED equivalent

We offer attractive remuneration package to commensurate with qualifications and experience. For consideration, please apply in person or forward your detailed resume to:

TRS SAIPAN
PRADA Boutique
DFS Galleria, Beach Road
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel 233-5009 • Fax 233-5008

Successful candidates must submit to Drug & Alcohol Test
Police and Court Clearance required.
We are an EEO Employer.

1 PRIVATE HOUSE HOLD
Minimum of 5-10 yrs experience
$ 5.05/hr

Bespren Development Corp,
dba Carefree Services
Please contact Rudy at 233-6927

Double Luck Int'l Corp.
Vacancy Announcement
2-Pet Shop Helper
3yrs experience required. Maintain water piping & water system. Knowledge in breeding gold fishes. Take care, feed, clean, and arrange animal poultry feed.
Interested applicants please call 234-3873

FABRICLEAN OF CNMI dba MARIANAS CLEANERS
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) DRY CLEANER SPECIALSIT.
Salary $5.05 p/h. Minimum of 3 yrs experience I n dry cleaning. GED or High School Graduate. Police Clearance required.
Interested U.S. Citizen may pick – up an application at Marianas Cleaners. Call 234-6239/5323

HOLLYWOOD NAIL ART
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(2) Nail Designer. Salary $5.05 p/h.
5 years working experience in Nail Art.
Chinese, Japanese, and
Korean speaking preferred.
Interested U.S. Citizen applicants, please call 285-8629

WANTED: US Workers Only
MARKETING MANAGER AND GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Must be fluent in Mandarin w/ at least 5 yrs experience.
DIVE MASTER
Must be fluent in Mandarin w/ at least 3 yrs experience.
Minimum wage.
Send resume to KDC at P.O. Box 10003 PMB 1175

1 Goldsmith/Precious Metal Worker - $5.50/hr
Minimum of 5 years experience. Must be knowledgeable in Gold & Silver Jewelry repair, fabricating Hawaiian style, gem stone setting, mounting & related work

1-Accountant - $5.05/hr
Minimum of 3-4 years experience w/ college degree. Must have a knowledge in jewelries, precious stone inventory.

Mail resume to King's Inc. P.O. Box 5050 CHRB Saipan, MP 96950 or Fax 234-8868

LC CORPORATION, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) Manager – Tour Operation.
Salary $1,800.00 p/m.
Minimum 5 years work related experience.
Korean language speaking preferred.
Interested U.S. Citizen must fax resume to 233-3703

LDK, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(3) Arcade Attendant
Salary $5.05 p/h.
Minimum 2 years work related experience.
Interested U.S. Citizen must fax resume to 233-3703

LDK, LLC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(3) Carpenters. Salary $5.05 p/h
(1) Electrician. Salary $5.05 p/h
(1) Commercial Cleaner. Salary $5.05 p/h
2 – 5 years working experience required.
Interested U.S. Citizen must fax resume to 233-3703

Job Vacancy Announcement
Closing Date: October 21, 2011
- 1 Business Operations Manager
- 1 Sales/Accounting Clerk
- 1 Air-con Technician
- 2 Barbers
- 2 All Around Beautician

Please send resume to
MANTRADE COMPANY INC.
PMB 40 BOX 10005, SAIPAN, MP 96950

Meena's CNMI Corporation
P.O. Box 502147 Saipan, MP 96950
Vacancy Announcement for US workers
1-Seamstress. Salary $5.05/hr
1-Manager. Salary $700.00 plus $100 housing allowance. Call 234-3225.
Email tomastchong@gmail.com or call 888-5748

Three (3) years minimum experience as a professional musician. Must have the ability to sing and play lead guitar and/or bass guitar. Competent in the use of musical sequencer/PA systems and able to perform several musical styles/music genre. Experience as sound technician is an advantage. Email resume to mapagahes@gmail.com.

Sheu's Brothers Holding Co. LTD
P.O. Box 502997 Saipan, MP 96950
Vacancy Announcement for
US workers
1-Houseworker, 2-Waitress, 2-Cook, 1-Inventory Clerk, 3-Sales Representative.
2 yrs experience. Japanese/Chinese speaking a plus. Salary $5.05/hr. Call 235-6128. Email tomastchong@gmail.com or call 888-5748.

SNE Saipan Co., Ltd.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) Building Maintenance Repairer,
(1) Office Manager, (1) Commercial Cleaner
3-5 yrs experience. Valid driver's license.
Police Clearance required.
Interested qualified U.S. workers may submit Application/or resume as SNE office or email snesaipan@live.jp. No phone calls please.

1-Architect
Degree required, 5yr. experience
utility residential design
ACAD v2011 proficient $10-$11/hr
Azuma Ltd. 256-6831

VENTURE TRANSPORTATION CORP
is currently seeking a FULL TIME SALES RENTAL AGENT
Good customer service skills • Energetic & detail oriented • Affluent computer skills • Minimum 2 years experience in sales • Clean driving record • English & Japanese speaking preferred
Fax resume to (670) 532-0801 or mail to
P.O. Box 1385, Rota MP 96951

Job Vacancy Announcement
WORLD INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
3 - GENERAL MAINTENANCE
Qualifications:
• At least 2 – 3 years experience in a Commercial Building Maintenance. Preferably in Carpentry and Masonry.
• Full time with flexible working hours
• Salary $5.05/hr
Please mail your resume to PMB 654 Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950
Contact our Office at Tel.: (670) 233-1545
between 2:30PM to 9:00PM.

YUTA CORPORATON
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) Office Manager. Salary $1,800.00 p/m
(1) Office Supervisor. Salary $900.00 p/m
(1) Accountant. Salary $5.05 p/h
4 – 5 years working experience required.
Interested U.S. Citizen must fax resume to 233-3703

American K&W Corporation
PMB 978 BOX 10001, Saipan, MP 96950
Vacancy Announcement for
US workers
1-Manager Chinese Restaurant
$10.00 per hour
1-Assistant Manager, 8-Masseuse, 3-Masseuse Helper, 1-Waitstaff, 3-Chef, 2-Cook, 1-Kitchen Helper, 1-Cook Helper.
Minimum of 2 years experience.
Knowledge of Japanese & Chinese language a plus.
Call 234-3225.
Email tomastchong@gmail.com or call 888-5748

AUGUSTIN R. AYUYU
dba LI LAI GANG MARKET
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Opening Date: October 13, 2011
Closing Date: October 19, 2011
(1) Store Manager. Salary: $6.00-$7.00 p/h. Must have 5 yrs experience in managing retail operations. Chinese language highly preferred. A valid driver's license required. Flexible time is required. Honest & trustworthy.
(1) Sales Person. Salary: $5.05 p/h. Minimum of 5 yrs work-related experience. Must know how to operate cash register. A valid driver's license required. Flexible time is also required. Honest & trustworthy.
Interested applicants must have their own reliable transportation.
Applicants must submit their resume at **LI LAI GANG Market**, located near David Market in Koblerville. **NO PHONE CALLS.**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
3-Beautician (all around)
$ 5.05/hr
1-Supervisor Beautician
(all around)
Min. 5 to 10 yrs experience
$ 5.05/hr
Bespren Development Corp,
dba Exquisitie Beauty Salon
Please contact Rudy
at 233-6927

Charms Inc.
Vacancy Announcement
1 **Engine Marine Mechanic.** 2yrs experience. To inspect, repair, replace engine and machinery.
1 **Beautician.** 2yrs experience. All around. Must have knowledge in all services provided in a saloon especially skin care.
1 **Beautician Manager.** 2yrs experience. Knowledge in Skin Care. Manage and operate the saloon.
1 **Beautician/Masseuse.** 2yrs experience. Knowledge in beauty & massage a plus.
Interested applicants please call 233-9391.

NEW POSITION
DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION – SAIPAN
Has an opening for an
Accountant or Accounting Clerk
For established small business
Must demonstrate understanding
of accounting controls
Responsible for daily, weekly
and monthly sales reports
and bank and credit card reconciliation
Daily and shift auditing
Responsible for maintaining G/L and
preparing month end P&L
Prepare payroll and Qtrly Tax reports
Must demonstrate excellent Word and Excel skills
Experience with Quick Books and ACCPAC
accounting programs

Must demonstrate ability to communicate
effectively in English
Able to adhere to and meet reporting deadlines

Full Time Employment
5 years accounting experience
On island References & Police Clearance Required

Applications must be submitted
by Saturday October 15th.
Fax Resume to 670-321-1668
or Call 670-287-7037

LAW OFFICE
Vacancy Announcement:
Legal Secretary/Legal Assistant
Require:
- Valid U.S. Immigration status such as U.S. Citizen, permanent resident alien, etc
- High school graduate
- Computer literate
- Valid CNMI Driver's license
- Trustworthy, reliable, loyal to clients
- Outstanding work ethic, results oriented, fast learner, detail oriented, work effectively under deadlines and pressure

Prefer:
- Chamorro and/or Refaluwasch fluency
- Experience in the legal field
- Education beyond high school

Pay and benefits commensurate with skills, experience and performance
Please telephone 235-8846
(9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

Micronesia Resort, Inc.
has an opening for an experienced
ACCOUNTANT
Salary: $5.05/hr - $7.50/hr
Qualification:
- Four (4) years of College and 4-5 years Accounting Experience.
- Must have knowledge and experience on MAS 90 system, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel.
- Responsible for maintaining A/R, A/P, G/L; preparation of F/S, payroll & tax returns and other related duties.

Interested applicants may send Resume to hr@mrisaipan.com.
No phone calls please.

Job Vacancy Announcement
JAPAN ENTERPRISES CORP. DBA CLUB MICRONESIA
15 DANCERS
Qualifications:
- At least 21 – 25 years old with pleasing personality.
- 2 – 3 years in Dancing experience especially Cultural and Variety Dance Skills
- Full time with flexible working hours
- Salary $5.05/hr

10 WAITRESS
Qualifications:
- At least 21 – 25 years old with pleasing personality.
- 2 – 3 years experience as a Waitress in a bar or in an Entertainment Business.
- Full time with flexible working hours
- Salary $5.05/hr

Please mail your resume to
P.O. Box 502589 Saipan, MP 96950 or
Contact our Office at Tel.: (670) 233-1545
between 2:30PM to 9:00PM.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
Caregiver /Housekeeper/ Office Maintenance
Duties: Home office & residence maintenance. Monitor daily medications, prepare meals and do laundry for senior citizen and proprietor.
Requirements: at least 5 years experience in giving care to a person with disabilities, housekeeping experience a must.
Open to U.S. Citizens call
322-2393 from 8am – 5pm
(Mon-Fri)
Fermina Camacho Apartments

EMPLOYER: **PACIFIC BLUE CORP.**
P.O BOX 505701 CK SAN JOSE/Phone: (233-0168)

Contact Person: Ms. Dela Cruz /Mr. Dizon (elvie@pcoutletguam.com)

Job Title: **(1) COMPUTER and LARGE FORMAT PRINTER TECHNICIAN**
Job Classification: COMPUTER and MATHEMATICAL OCCUPATIONS
Salary Range: $5.05 /Hourly Full Time (no House Provide)
WORK COMPENSATION AND MEDICAL INSURANCE
Job Duties:
- Performs repairs and analysis of all kinds of computers including Macintosh, computer peripherals and all kinds of printers.
- Install or repair Windows or Macintosh computers with standardized applications and networking software, diagnosing and solving problems that develop in their operations.
- Provide sales quotation(s) of recommended/preferred computer to the customer
- Diagnose defective personal computer & peripheral devices
- Train new users and Diagnose defective Large Format Printer
- Repair & Maintenance of Large Format Printer

Qualification Requirements: (5) FIVE YEARS EXPERIENCE

Job Title: **(1) ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN AND COMPUTER SPECIALIST**
Salary Range: $5.05 /Hourly Full Time (no House Provided)
WORK COMPENSATION AND MEDICAL INSURANCE
Job Duties:
- Install or repair Windows or Macintosh computers with standardized applications and networking software, diagnosing and solving problems that develop in their operations and all kinds of printers also Rebuilds fuser assemblies for specific laser printers.
- Installs printers, Ethernet cards, scanners, software packages and optional hard wares of personal computers; installs upgrades of motherboard, memory, processor and hard drive systems in personal computers.
- Repairs desktop and laptop motherboards, LCD and CRT monitors, projectors, computer peripherals and other electronic devices by replacing the specific defective parts (i.e. chipsets, capacitors, resistors, fuses, etc.).
- Install, operate, maintain, troubleshoot and resolve open issues related but not limited to network PC's, printers, wireless routers, hubs, switches, modems, LAN, WAN, connectivity, and other network related problems also Outbound jobs.

Job Title: **(1) COMPUTER SALES ASSOCIATE**
Salary Range: $5.05 /Hourly Full Time (no House Provide)
WORK COMPENSATION AND MEDICAL INSURANCE
Job Duties:
- Selling our products by performing excellent presentations, demonstrating professional demeanor, and displaying unparalleled product knowledge
- Show the customer the features and benefits that support customer needs established during the qualifying process. Explain various features as the customer uses the merchandise while continuing to qualify and eliminate objections
- Stay up-to-date with all technology and product information, compensation growth
- Responsible for merchandising a specified area of store (cleaning, tagging, ensuring all display items are accurate)

Qualification Requirements: (5) FIVE YEARS EXPERIENCE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

General Manager (1 position) $2,500 per month
- Knowledgeable in electrical products, retail/wholesale stores procedures to include: quotations, sales, payments, materials ordering, receiving, warehousing, and distribution.
- Familiar in electrical materials pricing in CNMI, including latest electrical products
- Must have knowledge in Point of Sales system and have experience in managing store/maintenance staff
- Have experience in importing/exporting electrical products, via air or shipping (Guam, Korea, USA)
- Have experience dealing and negotiating with customers and suppliers
- Must be bilingual (English & Korean Language), with at least 5 years work experience as Procurement Manager

Bidding Manager (1 position) $1,800 per month
- Knowledgeable in Project Contracting Activity Standards such as; Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), USACE, NAVFAC, CNMI Procurement, CNMI ARRA
- Knowledgeable in International Construction Standards; NEC, EM 385-1-1, OSHA, CNMI, and local government laws.
- Have ability to detailing project scope of works and requirements
- Have ability to read and analyze electrical plans, wiring diagram, layout, and technical specifications
- Knowledgeable in project estimate and project schedule (BOM/BOQ, labor cost, equipment cost, material specifications, etc.)
- Must be Licensed Electrical Engineer, with at least 5 years experience in Federal Project Contracting Activity

Assistant Office Manager (1 position) $5.05 per hour
- Have experience in preparing bank and other government agencies documents, lease agreements, monthly billings, collection reports, bank reconciliation, wire transfers requests, online transactions, and all other correspondences with vendors and customers
- Have experience in renewal of business licenses, permits, filing of various tax returns;
- Have experience representing company when dispute arises (CUC, Tax & Revenue, Zoning, and Division of Customs)
- Must be proficient in Peachtree Accounting software. Knowledgeable in accounting system (payroll, receivable/payable, withholding taxes, FICA tax, BGR tax, annual corporate tax, 1040 tax and all other types of tax required from a corporate company)
- College graduate, with at least 5 years experience in accounting system, office management and administration

Computer Programmer (1 position) $5.05 per hour
- Experience in computer system (networking, programming), CCTV system, and communication system
- Knowledgeable in troubleshooting of hardware and software system, and data files security measures
- Knowledgeable in Point of Sales software system, record of sales, stocks inventory, data base, and networking
- Familiar in sales operations, stocks inventory, receiving, distribution, and delivery to project sites
- Must be bilingual (English & Chinese Language), with at least 5 years experience in Computer Programming/Networking

Electrical Maintenance Supervisor (1 position) $5.05 per hour
- Experience in building inspection, maintenance, repair, safety measures, housekeeping and waste management
- Ability to handle tenants maintenance work request (electrical, plumbing, mechanical, carpentry, and others)
- Knowledgeable in OSHA and CNMI environmental laws
- Familiar in maintenance tools and equipment, building materials and appliances, and equipment spare parts
- Must be bilingual (English & Chinese Language), with at least 2 years experience in building management system

Electrician (2 positions) $5.05 per hour
- Knowledgeable in electrical system installations in accordance with NEC and local government standards
- Knowledgeable in electrical product sales, stocks inventory, receiving, distribution, and delivery to project sites
- Have experience dealing and negotiating with customers and suppliers (product quotation, usage, benefits)
- Knowledgeable in electrical market conditions, product innovations, and competitor's products prices.
- Must have driver's license, with at least 5 years experience in electrical installation and product sales

Carpenter (1 position) $5.05 per hour
- Have experience in construction building repairs and maintenance (carpentry, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, and others)
- Familiar in OSHA and CNMI environmental laws
- Knowledgeable in using maintenance tools and equipment (carpentry, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, and others)
- Familiar with stocks inventory, receiving, distribution, and delivery to project sites
- Must have at least 15 years experience in construction and building maintenance, repairs, and installation

Interested applicants may send resume to hongeei@pticom.com. No phone call please.
HONG ELECTRIC ENTERPRISES, INC.

L&T Group of Companies is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Business Operations Manager
Graduate of a 4-year degree course and with a minimum of 8 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 4 years of general management experience in property management and building maintenance. Knowledge of lease negotiations plus financial and quality management is required. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

Sales Officer
Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Must be able to prepare management and sales reports and is proficient in various MS office software operations. Can work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

General Maintenance Worker (14)
High school diploma or GED certificate or any combination of education, training, and experience which demonstrates ability to perform carpentry, plumbing, glass replacement, painting, masonry, grounds keeping, appliance repair, and electrical wiring; standard practices and use a variety of hand and power tools used in the maintenance and repair of building facilities. Must be able to work flexible hours. Can work outdoors.

Administrative Assistant (3)
Associate's Degree. Must be proficient in typing and good at written and oral communication. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service and interpersonal skills at work. Can work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Air conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic
Associate's Degree or Vocational School graduate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, servicing, and repairing air conditioning and refrigerating systems in residences and commercial establishments. Must have his/her own reliable transportation and must be able to work flexible hours.

Electrician
High school diploma or GED certificate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, maintaining, and/or repairing electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Must have knowledge of electrical codes, intercom and electrical control systems. Must be able to work flexible hours.

Housekeeper (8)
High school diploma or GED Certificate. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should be sent to hrd_l&t@tanholdings.com not later than October 21, 2011.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB

is inviting qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

(3)ACCOUNTANT
$5.50-$8.00/hour
Degree in accounting required
Minimum 2 years work experience; preferably in hospitality
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1)ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
$5.05/hour
Minimum 2 years work experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1)A/C MECHANIC
$5.05/hour
Minimum 4 years work experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(2)HVAC TECHNICIAN
$5.05/hour
Minimum 4 years work experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1)ACCOUNTING MANAGER
$30-$36K/year
This is a highly responsible professional financial and accounting position in the company's fiscal activities. The incumbent is directly responsible to the Finance Director and is expected to function in the absence of the Finance Director. Degree in accounting required; CPA preferred; five years management experience required. Strong Microsoft Office knowledge (Excel, Word, Visio and Powerpoint) skills are required. Epitome and MAS 90 system (General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Purchase Order, Inventory Management modules), experience will be considered an advantage.

(1)ASSISTANT RESTAURANT MANAGER
$24-$26K/year
This position monitors the daily operations of each restaurant function to ensure a positive guest experience and will profitably manage the overall operations of the restaurants . Will maintain all service aspects of food and beverage functions in accordance with the policies of the hotel. Minimum five (5) years restaurant and/or hotel food and beverage experience required. Minimum two (2) years previous F&B Leadership experience required. Previous experience in a first-class, medium to large resort preferred. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Considerable expert knowledge of banquet set-ups, policies and procedures. Must be able to successfully coordinate the staff and resources in high volume, time sensitive environment. Must have a genuine desire to lead the team in producing a high quality product, a great deal of creativity, and experience in budgeting and managing banquet operations. Positions requires work during weekends, holidays, and nights.

(4)BAKER
$5.05/hour
Minimum three years related work experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1)BANQUETS MANAGER
$23,660/yr + commission
This position monitors the daily operations of each banquet function to ensure a positive guest experience and will profitably manage the overall operations of the Banquet Department. Will maintain all service aspects of banquet functions in accordance with the policies of the hotel. Minimum five (5) years restaurant and/or hotel food and beverage experience required. Minimum two (2) years previous Banquet Leadership experience required. Previous experience in a first-class, medium to large resort preferred. Excellent written and oral communication skills are necessary. Considerable expert knowledge of banquet set-ups, policies and procedures. Must be able to successfully coordinate the staff and resources in high volume, time sensitive environment. The F&B Banquets Manager must have a genuine desire to lead the team in producing a high quality product, a great deal of creativity, and experience in budgeting and managing banquet operations. Positions requires work during weekends, holidays, and nights.

(8)BARTENDER
$5.05/hour
Minimum one year work experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1)BUILDING MAINTENANCE
$5.05/hour
Minimum 3 years work experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1) BUTCHER
$5.05/hour
Minimum one year work experience as a butcher
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(2)CALL CENTER AGENT
$5.05/hour
Minimum six months work experience, previous call center experience preferred
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays
Language Skills speak/read/write English and one or more of the following languages: Korean, Russian, or Japanese

(5)CARPENTER
$5.05/hour
Minimum five years work experience as a cabinet maker
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(8)CLUBMATE
$5.05/hour
Minimum 6 months work experience
Must pass a swim test (pre-employment)
Must pass life guard certification (post-employment)
CPR/First Aid Certified preferred
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(21)COOK
$5.05/hour
Minimum one year related work experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(2)COOK HELPER
$5.05/hour
Minimum 3 months work experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1)COST CONTROLLER
$7.00-$8.00/hour
Duties include, but are not limited to, assuming full responsibility for the inputting, reconciling and reporting of the Inventory System. Strong reconciliation skills, highly organized and able to operate without direct supervision. Degree in accounting preferred; two years previous supervisory experience required. Strong computer skills essential (Word and Excel) and is able to manage computerized inventory systems. Previous hotel experience preferred.

(2)ELECTRICIAN
$5.05/hour
Minimum 5 years work experience with license
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1)ELECTRICIAN SUPERVISOR
$5.15/hour
Five years supervisory experience
Master electrician license required

(1) ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN SUPERVISOR (SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT & ACTIVITIES DEPT)
$5.50-$8.00/hour
Responsible for property wide sound systems and in-house video. Strong background in Audio and Video is a must. Responsible for all technical aspects on all event orders, and making sure that these areas are covered. Assist in Clubmate duties when necessary. Must be able to meet and perform all requirements of the PIC Clubmate position including meeting all American Red Cross lifeguarding standards. Three years experience as Supervisor in similar role required.

(1)EXECUTIVE CHEF
$45K-$50K/year
Work requires 8 years progressive experience in high volume food production or catering in multi-unit restaurant Hotel or Resort environment. Passion for multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Knowledge in spa cuisine helpful. Must contain the following: confidence, creativity, hands on, fun, professional with strong leadership/communication skills at all levels of the organization. Exceptional guest focus & proven positive employee relations skills a must. Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays.

(1)EXECUTIVE SOUS CHEF
$35K-$40K/year
Work requires 6 years progressive experience in high volume food production or catering in multi-unit restaurant Hotel or Resort environment. Passion for multi-ethnic cuisine is required. Knowledge in spa cuisine helpful. Must contain the following: confidence, creativity, hands on, fun, professional with strong leadership/communication skills at all levels of the organization. Exceptional guest focus & proven positive employee relations skills a must. Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays.

(6) FOOD & BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR
$5.25/hour
Supervises employees engaged in serving foods in restaurants and maintaining cleanliness of food service areas and equipment; three years related work experience, two years supervisory experience required. Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays.

(5)FOOD SERVER CAPTAIN
$5.15/hour
Minimum 18 months related work experience,
One year supervisory experience required
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(4)FRONT DESK CLERK
$5.05/hour
Minimum one year work experience; preferably in hospitality
Previous cashiering experience required
Must be able to work graveyard shifts/weekends/holidays

(5)GARDENER
$5.05/hour
Minimum 3 years work experience
A working knowledge in landscaping chemistry
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(3)GENERAL MAINTENANCE
$5.05/hour
Minimum 3 years related work experience, preferably in a large hotel
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1)Graphic Designer / Banquet, Event and Administration Coordinator
$6.00-$7.00/hour
In this role you must be able to create designs, advertisement layouts, develop graphics and layouts for product illustrations, company logos and internet websites. Must have previous experience with Apple Mac, Creative Suite 5. Must have previous photography experience, be able to coordinate a photo shoot, layout and printing of promotional collateral. Established contacts with NMI Media. Have two years experience as a Banquet Coordinator, be able to solicit business, conduct client meetings, oversee all aspects of function, including menu development. Provide administration support for the F&B Management team, including scheduling, labor cost tracking, researching products, concept development and report writing. Event Coordination, create, design esthetic and execution of concept. Interview process will include demonstration of graphic design ability and photography skills.

(1)GUEST RELATION/GUEST LOYALTY PROGRAM MANAGER
$35K-$44K/year
Oversee the general operation of the multi-lingual Guest Relations department, including the concierge and tour desk. Answers guest complaints, complete foreign language translations, cater to VIP's, handle special requests and delegate responsibilities as needed. To continually enhance, expand and operate the existing Guest Loyalty Program in order to increase brand awareness and repeater guest demand. To maximize business opportunities with a strong loyalty program that is evident by growth in occupancy, average room rate, yield and revenues. In addition responsible for maintaining a web site and handling Loyalty program online bookings. Minimum two years hotel management experience required. Proficiency (speaking, writing, reading) in English and Japanese, with one or more of the following languages an advantage: Korean, and/or Russian. Previous experience in Front Office, Reservations and Housekeeping required, this role also oversees Front Office and Reservations Department when Department Heads are on leave. Proven ability to operate a Guest Loyalty Program and previous data base experience.

(5)GUEST RELATIONS
$5.05/hour
Minimum one year hospitality experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays
Ability to solve guest concerns, cashiering experience needed
Must be able to speak/read/write English and one or more of the following languages: Korean, Russian, or Japanese.

(1)GUEST SERVICE AGENT
$5.05/hour
Minimum one year work experience; experience driving large passenger vehicles required
Must be able to work graveyard shifts/weekends/holidays
Must be at least 21 years of age, possess a valid CNMI driver's license, and pass a medical exam and substance abuse test
Must provide a police and traffic clearance

(19)ROOM ATTENDANT
$5.05/hour
Motivated self starter; responsible for cleaning up to 17 rooms per shift.
Minimum 6 months work experience
Must be able to work graveyard shifts/weekends/holidays

(4)LAUNDRY ATTENDANT
$5.05/hour
Minimum 6 months work experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(9)PUBLIC AREA ATTENDANT
$5.05/hour
Minimum 6 months work experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(8)LEAD COOK
$5.15/hour
Minimum 3 years experience as a cook; supervisory experience preferred.
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1)MAINTENANCE REPAIR
$5.05/hour
Minimum 3 years related work experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1)POWERHOUSE MANAGER
$24K-$28K/year
7 years in diesel operation and repair
5 years management experience
Must be certified RO technicians water treatment & distribution
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1)MAINTENANCE MANAGER
$39K-$49K/year
To assist the Director of Engineering in the day to day operations of the Department.
Must be familiar with all hotel engineering disciplines and support them
10 years experience as a manager in multiple use facilities
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1)ENTERTAINMENT MANAGER (SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT, ACTIVITIES MANAGER)
$24K-$27K/year
Job requires two years management experience; previous experience in the SEA department.
knowledge of theater and dance as well as three years of administrative management experience.
Must meet all requirements of a PIC Clubmate.
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1)PURCHASING MANAGER
$30K-$35K/year
Plan, direct, or coordinate the activities of buyers, purchasing officers, and related workers involved in purchasing materials, products, and services. Degree in finance or business required. Four years management experience required, preferably in a hotel.

(1) RUSSIAN MARKET MANAGER/WEB MARKETING MANAGER
$35K-$45K/year
Manages Russian sales activities and daily operations of establishment: Coordinates local sales distribution and group bookings. Develops and maintains sales relationships with Russian wholesalers and local representatives of Russian-based wholesalers. Creates Russian market collateral and maintains Russian language website. Extensive knowledge in Russian travel internet sites required. Handles all Russian media, agent, VIPs and groups. Provides assistance to Russian guests during their stay and develops promotions to accommodate performance goals of company. Develops hotel's online presence through website, blogs, social media, e-newsletters in English and Russian. Mandatory written, reading and speaking fluency in English and Russian. Prepares month end reports and assists with marketing plan. Proficiency in MS Office, Adobe Photoshop 7.0, Epitome, web design. Any related duties as required.

(1)JAPAN SALES MANAGER
$33K-$43K/year
Coordinates all local Japanese sales efforts. Develops and maintains relationships with local Japanese tour companies and local representatives of Japan wholesalers. Responsibilities include coordinating all local marketing efforts targeted to Japanese tourists while in Saipan, placing advertisements in Japanese language publications, forecasting wholesaler materialization, organizing Japanese groups, representing hotel at JSTA and local Japanese Society, supervising Japanese market campaigns, conducting weekly sales calls and hosting Japanese media and travel agent familiarization tours. Proficiency in Japanese language (verbal, written, reading) required as well as Japanese Office, Epiteome, Japanese hotel booking systems.

MUSICIANS (3-pc band)
Salary dependant on experience
Able to perform music in English as well as Japanese/Korean/Russian
Minimum experience 2 years
Need to be able to play a variety of music genres, classical, pop, rock, reggae,
country etc. Must be able to play on an individual, duo and trio basis.
At least one member must be a classical pianist, playing classical music during restaurant dining hours.
Must be able to host events, MC events, be able to enroll audience participation during sing-a-long shows. Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays. Subject to audition

(1)NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR
$25K-$30K/year
Thorough knowledge of all software and hardware is required; this includes all Microsoft Windows Desktop and Server operating systems, Microsoft Application support, SQL Administration skills, Access Database and Crystal Report design skills with IIS, ASP and HTML Skills. Microsoft Exchange and Active Directory experience is highly desirable. Experience in the use of electronic mail (mail relays, spam filters and mail integrity) and Internet protocols (e.g. TCP/IP, PPP, and IMAP). Sound knowledge of routers, firewalls, network security, network configuration and construction, switches and fiber is required. Applicant should have in depth knowledge of PBX Telephone Systems, PC and Server hardware, new PC and Server installations, WIFI configuration and support, System backups and general network administration. We require a self-sufficient, career-minded person to provide support to our IT team. You must have sound IT industry experience (5 years minimum). Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to support a 24hr business are also essential. A+, Network +, and/or MCP certification are also highly desirable.

(3)PAINTER
$5.05/hour
Minimum 3 years related work experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1)PASTRY SUPERVISOR
$5.25/hour
Minimum 5 years pastry experience; 2 years supervisory experience required.
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1)PLUMBER
$5.05/hour
Minimum 5 years related work experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(3)POOL MAINTENANCE
$5.05/hour
Minimum 2 years related work experience
Previous HAZMAT training preferred
Shift begins at 2:00 a.m. daily

(4)POWERHOUSE OPERATOR
$5.05/hour
Minimum 5 years related work experience
Must be certified RO technicians water treatment & distribution
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1)RESERVATIONS CLERK – RUSSIAN MARKET
$5.05-$5.50/hour
Minimum 1 year work experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays
Must be able to speak/read/write English and Russian

(1)RESIDENT MANAGER
$65K-$80K/year
Ensures efficient and smooth operation of all resort divisions through effective management and leadership, delegation and technical assistance. Directs and coordinates activities of the organization to obtain optimum efficiency and economy of operations and maximize profits whilst taking into consideration the needs of guests and employees. Bachelor's degree in hotel or business administration. Ten years management experience in 3 star hotels or higher with 300 rooms or more

(1)RUSSIAN MARKET ASSISTANT
$5.05/hour
Assists the Russian Market Manager and Russian Coordinator with sales activities and daily operations of establishment: Finalizes booking invoices for Russian reservations to ensure accuracy. Coordinates Russian market collateral and maintains competitive analysis on Russian travel websites. Mandatory written, reading and speaking fluency in English and Russian. Prepares month end reports. Proficiency in MS Office and Epitome. Any related duties as required.

(3)SALES ASSOCIATE
$5.05/hour
Minimum 1 year work experience; previous cashiering experience preferred
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(5)STEWARD
$5.05/hour
Minimum 3 months work experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(1)ASSISTANT CHIEF STEWARD
$5.25/hour
2 years stewarding experience; minimum 2 years supervisory experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

(7)HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR
$5.15/hour
1 year supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality. 1 year Housekeeping Supervisor experience required (minimum 300 rooms hotel). Motivated self starter, required to clean rooms as required, responsible for checking up to 80 rooms per shift. Must be able to work graveyard shifts/weekends/holidays

(4)FRONT DESK SUPERVISOR
$5.15/hour
1 year previous Front Office Desk Supervisor experience required
Ability to solve guest related concerns and lead a team.
Must be able to work graveyard shifts/weekends/holidays
Prefer language ability: Korean, Japanese or Russian

(1)GUEST SERVICE SUPERVISOR
$5.15/hour
1 year supervisory experience; experience driving large passenger vehicles required
Must be able to work graveyard shifts/weekends/holidays
Must be at least 21 years of age, possess a valid CNMI driver's license, and pass a medical exam and substance abuse test
Must provide a police and traffic clearance

(4)MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
$5.15/hour
5 years related experience
3 years supervisory experience

(16)WAITSTAFF
$5.05/hour
Minimum 3 months work experience
Must be able to work evenings/weekends/holidays

All positions close on October 20, 2011. PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. A copy of valid police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required for some positions. PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

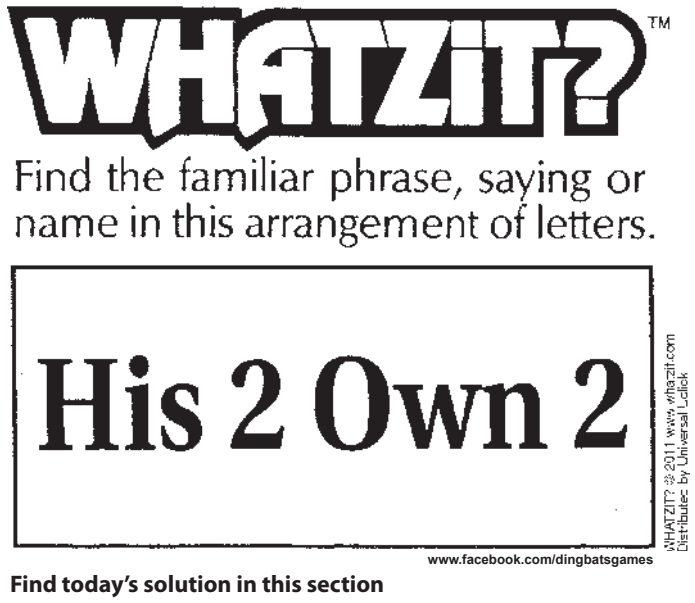
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.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Fister pitches Tigers past Rangers in Game 3

AP

Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Doug Fister (58) throws during the first inning of Game 3 of baseball's American League championship series against the Texas Rangers, Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2011, in Detroit.

DETROIT (AP) — Doug Fister shook off a frustrating first inning and Victor Martinez hurt himself while hitting a tying home run.

The banged-up Detroit Tigers are teetering but still standing, and now they have a chance to even the AL championship series.

Fister delivered another strong start in a game Detroit needed and Miguel Cabrera homered and had a tiebreaking double to lead the Tigers past the Texas Rangers 5-2 Tuesday night in Game 3.

"In and out, moving the ball around, moving the ball both sides of the plate," Detroit manager Jim Leyland said. "I thought it was a pitching clinic."

Detroit dropped the first two games in Texas before turning to Fister, who won the decisive fifth game of the division series at Yankee Stadium last week. He was sharp again, allowing two runs and seven hits with no walks in 7 1-3 innings.

Martinez homered in the fourth to tie the score at 1, but trotted gingerly around the bases. He stayed in the game despite an injury to his ribcage and hit a fly to center in the seventh, a sign that perhaps his swing wasn't too inhibited.

"The only way I'm not playing is if I wake up dead," he said.

Jose Valverde, after tossing a season-high two innings the day before, worked around a leadoff double in the ninth for his third playoff save. He got some help from Cabrera, who made a diving play at first base.

Game 4 is Wednesday afternoon. Matt Harrison starts for Texas against Rick Porcello—both went 14-9 this season.

"It's going to be a long series," Cabrera said. "Nobody (said) it's going to be easy. You've got to be patient."

Rangers third baseman Adrian Beltre fouled a ball off his left knee in the fourth and hobbled the rest of the night. X-rays were negative and he has a bruise.

Cabrera's double in the fifth put the Tigers ahead 2-1 and he added a towering solo homer in the seventh.

Jhonny Peralta also went deep for the Tigers. Austin Jackson broke out of his postseason slump with three hits, including an RBI single.

Texas right-hander Colby Lewis, who entered 4-0 in five postseason starts, allowed four runs and eight hits in 5 2-3 innings. He struck out six and walked two.

"He throws strikes and every now and then he's going to give up some long balls. I thought it was a pretty good ballgame," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "He kept us in the ballgame. It was Fister that did the job out there tonight."

Stung by Nelson Cruz's game-ending grand slam Monday, the Tigers returned home hoping to shake out of their offensive funk. They fell behind 1-0 when Fister allowed three consecutive singles to start the game, but the 6-foot-8 right-hander held the Rangers in check after that, even striking out Cruz for the third out of the seventh as the towel-waving crowd at Comerica Park roared its approval.

After leaving 22 runners on base in the first two games, the Tigers struggled again early on against Lewis. Detroit had two on with one out in the second, but Alex Avila and Ryan Raburn both struck out.

Lewis struck out five in the first three innings, but Martinez led off the fourth with a homer to right.

Martinez, who hit .330 this season despite groin, knee and back problems, labored slowly around the bases after the ball cleared the wall. When he returned to the dugout, his head still down, he slammed his helmet down as he descended the steps toward the clubhouse.

Detroit was already playing without injured outfielders Delmon Young, Magglio Ordonez and Brennan Boesch, and it wasn't clear whether Martinez—the designated hitter—would be able to continue. But he was back in the fifth, standing near the on-deck circle with Cabrera at the plate.

With runners at first and third and two outs, Texas decided to pitch to Cabrera, and his line drive down the right-field line on an 0-2 count stayed fair for a double to drive in a run.

"I'm not going to take another runner and put him at second base. The winning run is already at third base," Washington said. "We tried to make a pitch. Colby didn't get it there. Cabrera caught it."

Martinez drew a walk, loading the bases for Don Kelly, who hit a check-swing grounder to third. Beltre fielded the ball, then paused and waited to tag Cabrera. When the Detroit baserunner froze in his tracks, Beltre finally backpedaled toward the bag for the force to end the inning.

Detroit added two runs in the sixth. Peralta led off with a homer, and Jackson's RBI single made it 4-1. It was an encouraging night for Jackson, who entered 3 for 25 in the postseason with 14 strikeouts.

Leyland said he had no plans to drop Jackson from the leadoff spot.

"You know what? This is us," the manager said. "We are what we are. We've been doing this for the whole year, and we're going to either win this thing or go down with what we got."

Cabrera's homer in the seventh, which stayed fair down the left-field line, was his second of the playoffs. It also came on an 0-2 pitch.

Detroit provided more than enough offense for Fister, who was terrific down the stretch after the Tigers acquired him in a trade with Seattle shortly before the July 31 deadline. He retired his final batter Tuesday on an unusual unassisted putout, fielding Endy Chavez's grounder and then hustling over to first because Cabrera was well off the bag, trying to position himself for a potential play on the ball.

Fister was lifted after that, and he tipped his cap to an appreciative crowd as he left the field.

"Using the defense was a key thing for me and just focusing in on hey, I'm not trying to blow it by these guys," Fister said. "I'm not trying to get strikeouts. I'm looking for contact and let's go deep in the game."

Fister's first nine pitches were strikes, but the Rangers poked three of them into the outfield for singles and took a 1-0 lead. Ian Kinsler led off with a single to left, then Elvis Andrus chopped an 0-2 pitch into right for a base hit.

Josh Hamilton fell behind 0-2 as well before hitting a soft line drive just past the outstretched arm of Peralta, the shortstop, for an RBI single.

Fister escaped without further damage thanks to a double-play grounder by Michael Young and a strikeout by Beltre.

"Just stick with the same game plan," Fister said. "They hit a few groundballs that made it through the holes, and good hitters do. They came out firing and Alex and I just stuck with the game plan and used our defense. Tremendous plays out there, and you know that's the name of the game."

Source: Epstein to Cubs likely within 48 hours

BOSTON (AP)—Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein is likely to join the Chicago Cubs within the next 48 hours, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Tuesday night.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no announcement had been made.

The Cubs fired general manager Jim Hendry on Aug. 19 and finished 71-91. They have been pursuing Epstein, who just finished his ninth season with Boston. The Red Sox missed the playoffs following a record collapse, going 7-20 in September and finishing at 90-72.

Epstein would be going to a Cubs franchise that hasn't won the World Series since 1908. Boston hadn't won a championship since 1918 until doing it in 2004, Epstein's second year as general manager. The Red Sox also won it all in 2007.

The Boston Herald first reported that Epstein "is on the cusp" of leaving the Red Sox for a position with the Cubs and that an announcement was expected within 24 to 48 hours.

Earlier, the Cubs declined to comment on the Herald report.

The 37-year-old Epstein has one year left on his contract with the Red Sox. There was no word on whether they were asking for compensation from the Cubs.

His expected departure would be the latest in the wake of Boston's disastrous finish. On Sept. 30, two days after the Red Sox were eliminated from playoff contention on the final day of the regular season, Terry Francona's eight-year stint as manager ended.

The Red Sox had two years of options on Francona, but he said during a meeting the morning of Sept. 30 with Epstein and team owners John Henry and Tom Werner that he thought the club needed "a new voice" after problems arose in the clubhouse.

Through Sept. 3, the Red Sox held a nine-game lead over the Tampa Bay Rays for the AL wild card. The teams were tied in the standings going into the final day of the regular season. The Red Sox lost to Baltimore 4-3 a few minutes before the Rays beat the New York Yankees 8-7 in 12 innings to gain the playoff spot.

"This is one for the ages, isn't it?" Epstein said moments after the Rays won.

No team has blown a bigger lead in September and missed the playoffs. Boston did not win consecutive games at any point in the month.

It was a startling fall for the Red Sox and Epstein, who attended Brookline High School close to Fenway Park and became baseball's youngest general manager ever at 28 years, 11 months when he was appointed on Nov. 25, 2002.

But he's been criticized for giving long-term, costly contracts to free agents J.D. Drew, John Lackey and Carl Crawford, none of whom came close to meeting expectations.

Hendry also was criticized for giving similar deals to pitcher Carlos Zambrano, left fielder Alfonso Soriano and right fielder Kosuke Fukudome, who was traded last season.

One of Epstein's highest priorities could be determining the future of manager Mike Quade, who has one year left on his two-year contract.

Oneri Fleita, the Cubs' player personnel director under Hendry, and director of scouting Tim Wilken already have been retained by owner Tom Ricketts.

Also to be determined is the future of the emotional Zambrano. He cleaned out his locker and talked about retiring after giving up five homers and being ejected during a loss to Atlanta on Aug. 12. He was suspended for 30 days without pay and then it was decided he would sit out the rest of the season one year after undergoing counseling following an outburst in the dugout against teammates.

Zambrano was 9-7 with a 4.82 ERA and has a year left on the five-year, $91.5 million deal he signed in 2007.

Ricketts has been impressed with the Red Sox model and how they overhauled Fenway Park and increased revenue streams by adding seats above the Green Monster in left field and other parts of the stadium. Fenway is the only park in the majors older than Wrigley Field.

Ricketts said he was seeking a general manager who could use the new statistical and analytical data in baseball in conjunction with traditional scouting, a description that fits Epstein.

Lockout's real pain felt beyond owners and players

NEW YORK (AP)—NBA owners will lose $1 million on average for every game canceled because of the lockout, and players will lose an estimated $350 million a month. The pain, though, may be more acute for thousands of people with no seat at the bargaining table.

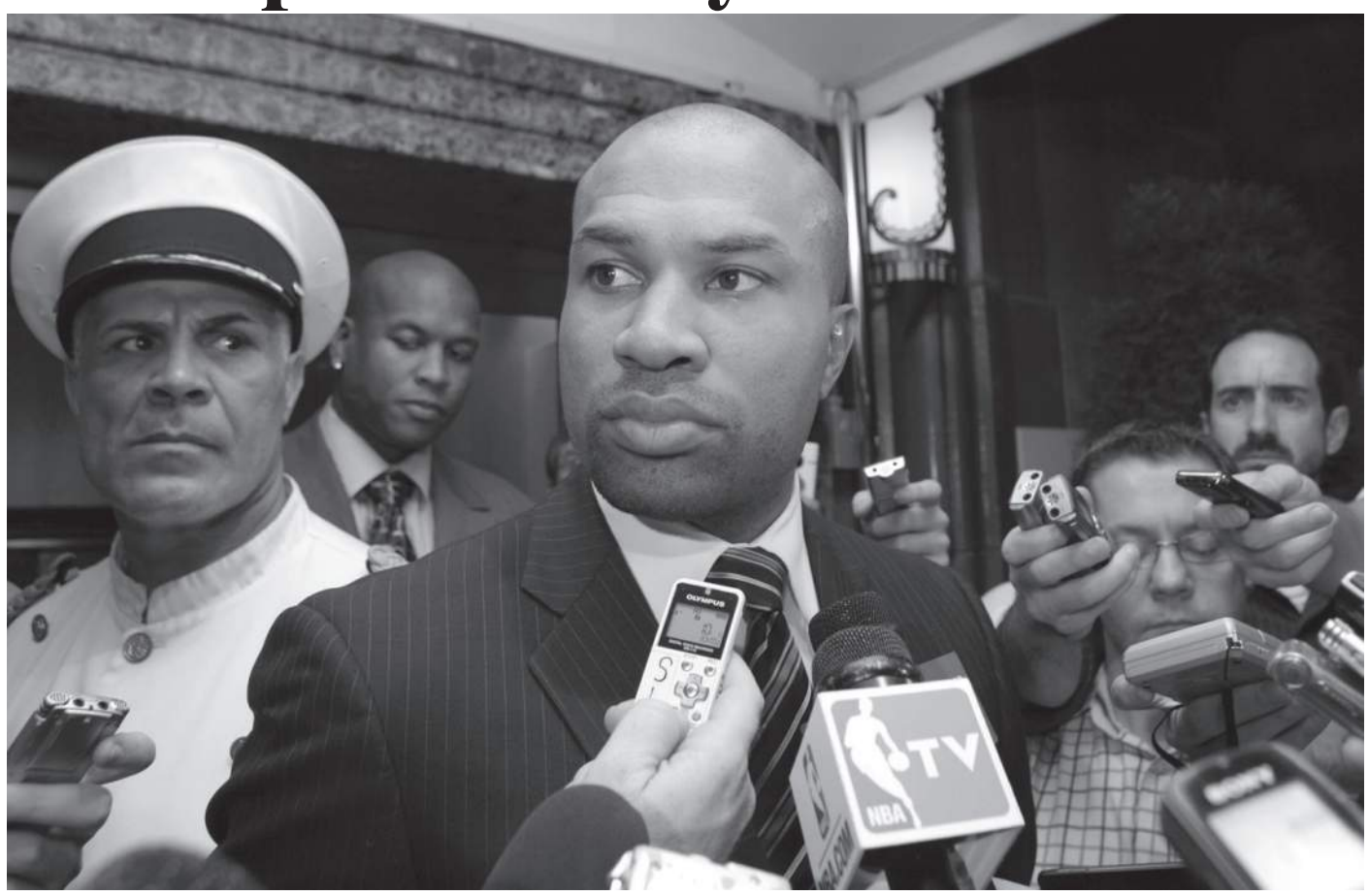
Bars, restaurants and hotels will go quiet. Parking spots will go unfilled. And the workers who help make basketball a big event in 30 cities will wonder how long they can get by without it.

"I'm worried that my money situation is going to change—a lot," said waitress Zuly Molina, who works at a Hooters at the Bayside complex next to the Miami Heat's home arena. "It was a lot better last year. We had business before every game, during every game with people who couldn't get tickets watching in here, then after every game. Now it's gone, except for when they have a concert or something like that."

Molina said she never believed the NBA would cancel games until Monday, when the league announced it was scrapping the first two weeks of the season—100 games—because owners and players couldn't agree on a new contract.

She said, "I thought it would be like football," where the NFL lost preseason games but no regular-season games while it hammered out a deal with players. "They were locked out. They got it situated. I thought the NBA would get it situated."

There's no telling when that will happen. Commissioner David Stern indicated that the entire November calendar could be wiped away without a deal by the end of this month, but players and owners had no immediate plans to sit down with each other again.



Derek Fisher, president of the NBA players union, talks to reporters Monday, Oct. 10, 2011, in New York. AP

The cancellations mean that Mark Cuban and his Dallas Mavericks won't be able to collect their NBA championship rings in the Nov. 1 season opener, and that James Dolan won't be able to show off his renovated Madison Square Garden to a sold-out crowd when New York hosts the Heat's Big Three the next night.

But owners might be the lucky ones. They can still recoup some of their losses, and that's what Stern said they could attempt by toughening their future proposals for a new collective bargaining agreement.

"Well, what we have to do is we have to account for the losses that we're suffering, so those losses will be factored in as we move forward," he said Monday night.

Players and owners have each made some concessions but remain far apart on several issues. Each side has sought a 53 percent cut of revenue for itself, though a 50-50 split has been floated informally. Owners also want a higher luxury tax, making it more expensive for teams to spend over the salary cap, but players say that would do too much to discourage teams from offering big contracts.

Players and fans quickly took to Twitter and talk shows, disgusted that the sides couldn't work out an agreement and were willing to cause so much damage following such a successful season.

"All I can think about, and I'm not trying to sound like I'm on my soapbox here, but all I can think about are the thousands and thousands of arena, team and hospitality employees that are now going to be out of work," said Andrew Feinstein, a bar owner and season ticket holder in Denver. "I thought the owners and players had an obligation to work this thing out while continuing to play the game, given the dire economic circumstances that are taking place in our country right now."

A lengthy lockout will be felt strongest in the NBA's small-market cities. In Salt Lake City, a Marriott hotel was taking cancellations Tuesday for about 40 rooms previously booked by the Memphis Grizzlies the night of Nov. 2. Tyson Lybbert, director of sales and marketing for the Salt Lake Marriott City Center, said each game brings between $5,000 and $10,000 to the chain.

Without a lockout, basketball already would have been back by now. The exhibition schedule was to have opened Sunday, and even preseason games can bring big crowds to restaurants and bars near NBA arenas.

Jim Couch, city manager of Oklahoma City, was concerned for restaurants, hotels and volunteer groups in his city. The Thunder are coming off their most successful season since relocating from Seattle, reaching the Western Conference finals last year behind NBA scoring champion Kevin Durant, and have developed one of the league's most passionate fan bases.

"What I'm more concerned about than anything else is the momentum that the city has gotten, disrupting the momentum with the Thunder. It was a special year last year with the Thunder, and I think everybody was looking forward to continue that," Couch said. "I think it's almost a love affair between the community and the team, and you hate to disrupt that."

Business went on for the league's partners. ESPN was scheduled to show seven games during the opening two weeks and plans to replace them mostly with college football and basketball games. TNT will rely on its regular prime-time lineup to fill the six games it would have televised.

Adidas, the league's official outfitter, and fellow sneaker giant Nike said they remained committed to basketball and could seek additional exposure at the collegiate or international levels.

Stern and union president Derek Fisher of the Lakers expressed disappointment for fans. Players and owners had the luxury of knowing just how complex the issues were and had two years to prepare themselves financially for a moment that Fisher said was "what we anticipated would probably happen."

"This is a big blow obviously to our fans, most importantly," he said. "They don't have a voice in this fight so far, but we hear them loud and clearly. They want basketball, we want to play basketball, and we're going to do the responsible thing and try our best to bring them basketball as soon as we possibly can."

Arizona beats out Tampa, lands 2015 Super Bowl

HOUSTON (AP)—Ah, Arizona. Just the place for the Super Bowl to thaw out after a frosty foray into the New York/New Jersey area.

The Super Bowl is heading back to the desert in 2015, one year after it will be at the mercy of winter weather in the Meadowlands. The Phoenix area was awarded the 49th Super Bowl by NFL owners Tuesday, beating the only other candidate—Tampa, Fla.

It will be the third time the Phoenix area has hosted the game, which will be played in Glendale.

"We are thrilled to be back in Arizona," Commissioner Roger Goodell said. "I will say it was a difficult choice."

Phoenix won on the second ballot, prompting screams of joy from the Arizona committee.

"Everyone pulled together throughout the Phoenix area to put together a terrific package we were able to present to the owners," Arizona Cardinals President Michael Bidwill said. "We are delighted."

It's difficult to be critical of the choice weatherwise: average temperature in early February in Glendale is about 60 degrees. In East Rutherford, N.J., where the first outdoor Super Bowl in a cold-weather climate will be played in 2014, the average is a slightly chillier 31 degrees.

The NFL also set Feb. 2, 2014, as the date of the Super Bowl in New Jersey; that date will not conflict with the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

"It's historically warmer on Feb. 2," Giants owner John Mara said with a smile. He didn't mention the possibility of snow, freezing rain, blustery winds and all the accompanying elements.

That will not be a factor in Arizona. The NFL has seemed eager to return to the Valley of the Sun since the Giants' upset of the then-unbeaten Patriots on Feb. 3, 2008 at University of Phoenix Stadium.

Tempe, Ariz., was the 1996 host, with Dallas defeating Pittsburgh 27-17.

"This is huge for Arizona," bid leader Mike Kennedy said. "It feels really satisfying."

Tampa hosted the game in 1984, 1991, 2001 and 2009.

"Both cities are great sites for the Super Bowl and both had impressive bids," added Mara, whose team has won championships in both places. "They've each been to the altar a few times recently and were denied. They both deserve to host a game again."

Next year's game is indoors in Indianapolis, followed by New Orleans in 2013 and then the Big (possibly frozen) Apple. There is speculation that the 50th championship game in 2016 will wind up in Los Angeles, where the first Super Bowl was played in 1967, if a suitable stadium is available.

"That is a significant event for us," Goodell said, "and we want to make sure we do it right. I don't think there is anything off the table on who would host it."

The league is keeping close tabs on two potential stadium projects in Los Angeles.

"We think there are two opportunities in Los Angeles and we are going to pursue both of them aggressively," Goodell said.

Neither Arizona nor Tampa received the required 24 of 32 votes on the first ballot Tuesday, meaning a simple majority was needed on the next vote.

Goodell spoke with the Tampa Bay group immediately after it lost the bidding.

"Anytime we are invited to participate, we will do so," said Paul Catoe, outgoing CEO of Tampa Bay & Co.

Bidwill said the estimated economic impact in Arizona in 2008 was more than $500 million, and he expects it to be higher in 2015. While that number seems high because subsequent Super Bowls didn't reach that level, it's still a major boon to local business.

"The impact is in the multihundred millions of dollars, and that is significant value for any community," said Marc Ganis, president of Chicago-based sports business consulting firm Sportscorp Ltd., and an observer of the league's business side. "The Super Bowl also provides a positive target for a community to rally around. There are all sorts of activities—business, volunteer, political—that can be pointed to when they host the Super Bowl."

Ganis also points out that the Phoenix area has enough first-class hotels for the Super Bowl. That has been a challenge for Tampa, which has involved Orlando and Sarasota and other areas in its bids.

Later Tuesday, owners approved a resolution to play regular-season games in Britain through 2016. Teams can volunteer to play at least one regular-season home game per year in Britain for up to five years. Goodell said several teams have expressed interest and there are financial incentives for hosting games overseas. Visiting teams can play abroad only once in five years.

Tampa Bay will host Chicago on Oct. 23 in London, the fifth straight year the NFL has held an October game there. The Buccaneers will be making their second London appearance in three years; they lost to New England 35-7 in 2009.

Several teams that struggle to sell out home games, such as the Jaguars, Raiders, Bengals and Chargers, could be in line for more frequent trips overseas.

No specifics on venues, dates or teams for future games have been set, but Goodell made it clear more games in London are coming, perhaps two next season.

"We are very pleased with the reception to the game and the way our business has grown over there," he said. "Can it be sustained for multiple games?"

The meetings began with a five-minute NFL Films tribute to Al Davis; the Oakland Raiders owner died on Saturday.

Garapan to host Blue Haus finals Sunday

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League championship tiff set between Cell Pro and Micronesian Brokers, Inc. will take place at the Garapan Basketball Court at 7pm this Sunday.

The awards presentation will be held after conclusion of the finale match.

The league has postponed the finals due to rains.

While games were played on Gualo Rai up to this point, organizers moved the finals to Garapan.

The Blue Haus league started with 21 teams divided into three separate divisions.

Top-ranked MBI went undefeated in the A division and knocked off Cell Pro and third finalist, Sherwin Williams, in the playoffs.

MBI kept extending its flawless streak into the playoffs with a 71-66 triumph over Sherwin Williams last Sept. 16 and went on to boast a solid 71-59 victory over Cell Pro in their first meeting last Sept. 19.

Cell Pro, however, would rebound and eliminated Sherwin Williams, 75-71, last Sept. 23 to earn another shot at the top seed.

To make thing even more interesting, organizers have since lifted MBI's twice-to beat advantage and thus Sunday's game will be played for all the marbles.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

MBI's Noel David slashes to the hoop in their Blue Haus caging playoff game against Cell Pro last Sept. 19 at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Men's Island-Wide Fast-Pitch Softball meeting today

The CNMI Softball Association will hold its initial organizational meeting for the upcoming 2011 Men's Island-Wide Fast-Pitch Softball League at 6pm today at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Opening day for the league is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 31. The deadline to submit rosters and entrance fees is Monday, Oct. 17.

Players must be at least 16 years old and rosters are limited to 16 players per team; the league has also capped an 8-team limit.

The entrance fee will be determined based on the number of participating teams and will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis.

As the association is an active member of the International Softball Federation, this will be a competitive league played under ISF's Official Rules Of Softball.

Interested individuals, teams, and/or potential sponsors can obtain more information from Juan Maratita at 256-7363. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

BACK-TO-BACK

From Page 28

regular season and was undefeated going into the championship match. The once unsinkable Proa fell in the most important game of the season, as it struggled with its erstwhile potent 3-point shooting and opted not to use its trademark backcourt trapping defense.

Actually, Proa tried putting its pressure defense in the first four minutes of the second half and it produced dividends as after trailing in the opening quarter, 24-18, it built a seven-point lead, 38-31.

Ali'i Konflikt took early control of the match, as it managed to orchestrate its halfcourt set sans Proa's suffocating defense. Ivan Devero and Jawn Joyner benefited from Proa's change of heart, as they converted several baskets off one-on-one plays. The duo combined for 14 points in the first period.

Then in the second quarter, Proa surprised Ali'i Konflikt with its relentless defense and the former forced errors and turned these miscues into baskets. Pete Iguel, who was saddled with two quick fouls midway into the first period and scored only one field goal, drilled eight straight points in the early juncture of the second half, giving Proa the needed break.

However, Proa failed to sustain its momentum, as Ali'i Konflikt settled down midway in the second and the former again opted out of its trapping defense. By the end of the first half, Ali'i Konflikt was only down by a bucket, 42-44.

The second half was an all Ali'i Konflikt show, as it ran its offense well with Proa still choosing not to pressure its foes from the backcourt. On defense, save for Iguel's first four points in the opening minutes of the third period and last minute in that canto, J.R. Barrios and Elmer Esdrelon alternately hounded the Proa top scorer.

Only three players nailed baskets for Proa in the third and it was held to only one field goal for more than five minutes in that frame, allowing Ali'i Konflikt to take its biggest lead at 15, 67-52.

Joyner and Devero were still at it in the third, but it was the contributions of Barrios, Brandon Talania, and Edmark Mendoza in that quarter that helped Ali'i Konflikt pull away.

A 6-0 windup in the last 56 seconds of the third period kept Proa in the game as it fell behind by only single digit, 58-67, with a full quarter to go.

At the start of the fourth, Proa still allowed Ali'i Konflikt to orchestrate its halfcourt set and the former paid the price when Mendoza scored four quick points on one-on-one plays.

Proa managed to cut the lead anew to single digit, 66-75, before a frustrated Quincy Johnson was called for a technical foul. Johnson, who finished the game scoreless, was contesting a no-call in scramble play at the Ali'i Konflikt court. Esdrelon canned the two technical free throws and with Ali'i Konflikt also getting possession, Joyner converted a short jumper to give his team more distance.

Proa made one final bid to redeem its lost pride in the last 1:37 of the game when it moved within five, 80-85. However, Ali'i Konflikt was not rattled in the end with Joyner bravely attacking Jack Lizama's defense on a fastbreak play and giving his team a seven-point margin, 87-80.

Ali'i Konflikt went on to seal the win from the foul line, nailing five free throws, while Proa finally folded up in the last minute of the championship game when it missed from the stripe and beyond the arc and uncharacteristically committed errors.

Joyner top-scored for Ali'i Konflikt in the finale, making 23 points, while Devero and Mendoza added 20 and 13. Barrios came of the bench and contributed 16, while Esdrelon tallied 12. Jomar Tumaquip scored only four points, but provided stability at the backcourt, settling his team down when Proa started to tighten its defense on a few occasions.

Lizama led Proa with 21, while Iguel still finished in double figures with 16, but failed to hit a single triple. In the past, Iguel drilled at least three triples and averaged close to 25 points in the regular season. In Proa's 110-105 semis win over Bayani/Mobil, Iguel exploded for 32 points. Barcinas chipped in 14, but was limited to two field goals in the second half.

Meanwhile, in the battle for third place, Mobil edged Cavite/Andok's, 90-86.

Consolation

Mobil/Bayani 90 – Fernando 19, Sharry 13, Moises 13, De Guzman 12, Ruluked 11, Gapor 5, Wenceslao 2.

Cavite/Andok's 86 – Dayrit 22, Pelisamen 20, Llagas 12, Umali 12, Wesley 8, Artates 8.

Scoring by quarters: 23-15, 32-36, 68-60, 90-86.

Finals

MAFEA/Ali'i Konflikt 94 – Joyner 23, Devero 20, Barrios 16, Mendoza 13, Esdrelon 12, Tumaquip 4, Talania 4, Guiab 2.

Proa/Namfrel 79 – Lizama 21, Iguel 16, Barcinas 14, Libuw 10, Sablan 4, Chariton 3, Ogumoro 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-18, 42-44, 67-58, 94-79.

OVER

From Page 28

The club has taught us a lot of values and helped groom us into responsible contributors to society. Of course, we would love to keep everyone together, but in the end this is what's best for me and my brother," added Jon.

The Cenirs thanked everyone in attendance for their support and dinner was served to the whole crowd just before the last game.

The main event between Docomo and the Parents was predetermined since the other participating squads were made up of developmental U12 players.

Docomo went through the U12 IT&E Rollers, 37-16, in the curtain raiser and then trumped the U12 Ol'Aces, 38-30, en route to the finals.

The Parents knocked off the U12 Micronesian Brokers, Inc., 42-28.

All games were played in a single 25-minute period where each team was granted two time outs.

The Parents assumed control early in the finale pairing, but the youthful Docomo team poured on its game as the time wore down. The old-timers struggled playing defense against the speedy Docomo cagers and elected to chuck full-court passes in the later minutes of the match.

Docomo became wise to the tactic and began to make the Parents pay for their shortcuts and edged out the late rally by the final buzzer.

The Parents had a few good looks for a desperation buzzer-beater, but could not get them to fall.

Docomo's Renan Lansang led all scorers with 12 points, while the Parents' Fred Litulumar managed 10 in a hard fought loss.

Litulumar was a force on the defensive end as well and notched a game-high six rebounds to go with four blocks; he won a National Office Supply gift certificate and a free dinner for two at Hyatt Regency Saipan in the awards presentation after the game.

Other awardees included most valuable player William Camacho of Docomo; Lansang for nabbing three steals; and point guard Irvyn Malonzo who dished out six assists.

Camacho won a Hyatt dinner coupon and his teammates took home Pacific Islands Club water park passes.

The RBC is planning to put on a 3-on-3 tournament for its U10, U12, and U14 divisions over Halloween weekend as its last fundraiser before its trip to Guam. More details will be released when received.

Docomo Rollers 42 – Lansang 12, Malonzo 7, Iglesias 5, Ano 4, Factor 4, W. Camacho 2, Devero 2, Feria 2, Floresca 2, Taba 2.

Parents 41 – Litulumar 10, Hambros 8, Valencia 8, Itaas 7, P Camacho 6, Rios 2.

MIEKO

From Page 28

I am excited to see him in Maui," said Carey, who was then coached by Australian pro Andrew Noble and Olympians coach Col Stewart.

Carey earned another slot to XTERRA World after finishing fifth in the 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship early this year. She and Butch Sublemente are the only two triathletes from Saipan who will compete in the new course in Maui. This year's XTERRA World was moved from the south's Makena Beach & Golf Resort to the north's Kapalua Resort.

Free swim clinic

Meanwhile, before leaving for Maui, Carey will be holding a free clinic Saipan Swim Club organized through the help of Mariana Resort.

"I am so excited to share my experience with the kids. I used to coach in Japan before I came on Saipan and then I worked for SSC for a year. Swimming is my strongest point in triathlon," Carey said.

"I would love to help develop young swimmers on Saipan. Some children have big potentials future. I want to improve their skills and teach them how to have fun in doing swimming or any other sports," she said.

The clinic will run from 5pm to 6pm at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

GILLETTE

From Page 28

Saipan Soccer School president Jerry Tan said.

After the UFO league, the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium will host games in the 3rd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League, which will kick off this Sunday.

The opening of the TSL Sports Complex mid this year was timely as the Gilbert. C. Ada Gymnasium, which hosts most basketball competitions on Saipan, closed in May. The Ada Gym has yet to reopen, as rehabilitation and repair works have yet to be completed. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Fister pitches Tigers past Rangers in Game 3

24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Lockout's real pain felt beyond owners and players

25

Back-to-back for Ali'i Konflikt

Members of MAFEA/Ali'i Konflikt flash the No. 2 sign after winning back-to-back titles in the UFO caging, following a 94-79 victory over Namfrel/Proa at the Gillettte Multipurpose Gymnasium last Tuesday night.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MAFEA/ Ali'i Konflikt lost its first game of the season, but won the last one that counted the most.

Ali'i Konflikt prevailed in the winner-take-all finale of the UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friendship League 2011 Bud Cup, pulling off a 94-79 upset against Namfrel/ Proa last Tuesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

The victory allowed Ali'i Konflikt to defend the title it claimed over MDX-Chow Queen last season.

The loss was a sorry one for Proa, which swept the

See BACK-TO-BACK on Page 27

Gillette gets naming rights for sports complex section

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MAFEA/Ali'i Konflikt's Elmer Esdrelon goes for a layup against Namfrel/Proa defenders during their title match in the UFO Bud Cup caging at the Gillettte Multipurpose Gymnasium last Tuesday night.

The management of the TSL Sports Complex has inked a one-year deal with D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd, renaming the center section of the facility as the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium."

"We're very pleased and proud to have this section of the TSL Sports Complex renamed after one of our most popular brands. The Gillette brand is a very active supporter of sports events and athletes around the world, and we found this particular brand a perfect fit to this sports complex," said Max Kretzers, resident manager of D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd.

The Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium can be used for basketball, badminton, and even futsal games. Early this year, it hosted the basketball playoff games in the Coalition of Private School Sports Association and for about four months, the facility served as the venue for the three divisions matches in the UFO caging. Northern Marianas Badminton Association also used the facility for its clinics and warm-up games.

"We're very grateful to D&Q for this sponsorship. Since this multipurpose section opened we've had numerous basketball leagues take advantage of the facility. On most nights there are basketball, futsal, and badminton games all within the Sports Complex. This financial support from D&Q will help to ensure that the facility will keep up its standards of providing a safe and friendly sporting environment for our community,"

See GILLETTE on Page 27

Over 80 turn out for RBC Family Fun Tourney

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

A crowd of more than 80 people congregated at the Garapan Basketball Court for the Rollers Basketball Club's Family Fun Day Tournament finale Tuesday night.

Five teams participated in the event, which was held in an informal exhibition format.

The tourney was initially held to help prepare RBC players for their upcoming trip to Guam where its U12, U14 A and B, U16 A and B, U18, and U25 divisions will compete in the upcoming 7th Annual Take-Care Thanksgiving Hoop-Fest Youth Basketball Tournament from Nov. 21 through Dec. 7.

In addition, RBC threw a farewell party for members Jon and Mike Cenir, who are moving to Laveen, Arizona in the U.S.

Jon is 17 years old and has been a member of RBC the past six years, while his brother, 12-year old brother Mike, has been with the program for the past two years.

Their mother is transferring to an accounting position in Palau and their father is still looking for work because his current contract was not renewed.

As a result, the boys are moving to live with an uncle, but all in all are looking forward to continuing their basketball careers stateside.

"We are going to miss our family and friends and we really want to thank the Rollers for helping us develop our basketball skills," said Mike.

"And its not just about basketball, the (RBC) club is where we made a lot of friends and learned more than just basketball.

See OVER on Page 27

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

RBC's U16 Docomo Rollers are all smiles after besting a team composed of their parents and senior RBC members in Tuesday's RBC Family Fun Tournament finale at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Mieko tapers off for XTERRA World

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hawaii-bound Mieko Carey will do her final preparations for the 2011 XTERRA World Championship this weekend.

"My last big training will be this Sunday," said Carey, who is talking of the mini "Hell of the Marianas" 50K race this. "I've been training hard for the past months and next week after the mini Hell, I will focus on recovery, take a rest, and be ready for XTERRA World."

The 2011 XTERRA World Championship will take place on Oct. 23 (Oct. 24 on Saipan) in Maui and the 33-year-old triathlete is leaving Saipan for Hawaii on Oct. 19.

"It is less than two weeks before the Maui race. I am getting excited," the pro triathlete added.

In Maui, Carey hopes to surpass her 13th place finish

in the women's pro division and eclipse her time of three hours, 21 minutes, and 11 seconds. In 2009, she placed 18th and clocked in at 3:35:44. In the 2011 edition of the annual off-road race, Carey will reunite with her new coach Cody Waite.

" He is one of the top American XTERRA athletes. I just started working with him after my trip in Japan and I felt good.

See MIEKO on Page 27